

VALLEY STAR

VOLUME 60, ISSUE No. 10

NOVEMBER 26, 2003

LOS ANGELES VALLEY COLLEGE

Flu Vaccine
Unavailable
On Campus■ Health-conscious
students must go off-
campus for flu shots.

BY SUSAN MALTBY

STAFF WRITER

The Valley College Student Health Center has expended their supply of Flu vaccine for the season.

"The flu season began earlier than usual this year. There were a few cases reported before the flu season, so the vaccine was made available early," said Brandy Rodriguez, medical assistant at the center. "We get a limited amount of vaccine so we keep it strictly limited to qualified student use only. Faculty and staff are generally covered for it under their own health plans," Rodriguez added.

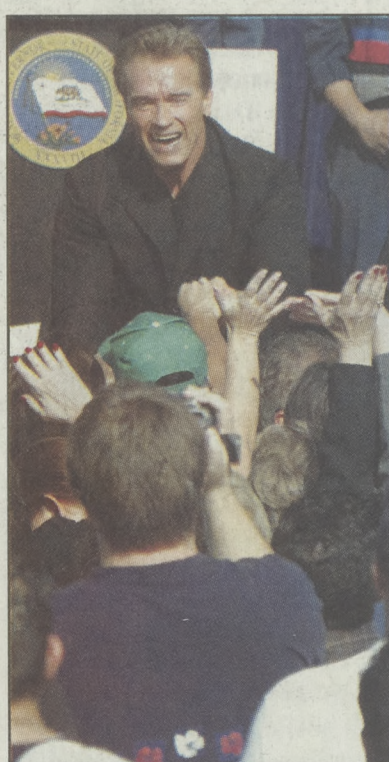
Many students come to the clinic hoping to be immunized but may not meet the requirements to qualify for the free shot, according to Rodriguez. "A lot of people are misinformed about the flu vaccine," she said.

Only students in high-risk groups qualify for free influenza vaccination.

High-risk groups include all adults aged 60 and older, and people 18 and older who have heart, lung or kidney disease, or certain other chronic conditions.

Although students who qualify for free vaccination won't be able to get their shot here, they can still be vaccinated at a few nearby clinics. "We ran out of the shots in our center but anyone who needs it can go to the Los Angeles County Community Outreach immunization clinics," Rodriguez explained. The clinic has a list of nearby locations where the shots are available.

Valley business student Jackeline Sanchez feels the benefits of the Flu shot make it

See *Flu* page 6

TAMMY ABBOTT/VALLEY STAR

GOV. TAKES ACTION - Gov. Schwarzenegger greets people at Galpin Ford in North Hills Thursday to announce repeal of the car tax. See story, page 6.

PICK UP THE NEXT
ISSUE OF THE
VALLEY STAR ON
DEC. 10

HOLIDAYS COME, LEAVES GO



JORGE GALLEGOS/VALLEY STAR

ONE AUTUMN DAY - Hues of golds and reds paint the Valley Campus that is covered in leaves. The leafless trees signify that fall is upon us. Above, librarian Wai-ying Lui walks toward her bus stop as she ends another working day at Valley College

Burglar
Arrested
for Auto
Invasions■ Van Nuys man arrested
on CSUN campus con-
fesses to 50 burglaries.

BY JACQUI BROWN

STAFF WRITER

Students and staff at Valley College can breathe a sigh of relief after police arrested a suspect responsible for numerous car burglaries since the beginning of the 2003 fall semester.

Van Nuys resident Chris Flores confessed to at least 10 at Pierce and more than 50 burglaries in Valley College lots, even though only 31 theft reports had been filed at the Valley Sheriff's Department, according to Sheriff's Detective Steve Gutierrez.

California State University police arrested Flores, 33, on Nov. 4 in a CSU Northridge parking lot.

"We had a large number of car burglaries," said CSUN police department Detective Sgt. Dana Archer, who attributes 21 of CSUN's burglaries to Flores.

See *Thefts* page 6

Valley Hosts Opportunity Fair

■ Students and parents benefit from child development resources at fair.

BY PETER O'CONNOR

STAFF WRITER

Students, teachers, counselors and children poured through the doors of Monarch Hall Wednesday to attend a child development fair. The fair offered information about a world of opportunity available to those who want to help children.

"I'm here because I genuinely care about the children," said Priscilla Dominguez of the Wonder of Reading Chapter at Valley. "I remember how horrible our library and resources were for me growing up and I do not want to see children going through that today."

The fair targeted a wide spectrum of people such as students looking to become teachers and parents looking to send their children to an after school program. The child development department of Valley offered courses and programs aimed towards careers in teaching, childcare and praising children.

The Wonder of Reading, one of the many attendees, offered reading programs and phonic development our children. Representatives from the California Department of Housing and Community Development offered ways in creating child care facilities; the Southern California Valley Association for the Education of Young Children also had a table. Every row of tables had something new to offer and friendly faces providing fair-goers with treats, smiles and valuable information.



IRENE KALENTS/VALLEY STAR

OPPORTUNITIES ABOUND - A group of students explore their career opportunities with Creative Kids representative Gail Tate.

mation.

The career transfer center at Valley presented opportunities for students in the child development programs options for their futures and a direction in their career as teachers to our future generations.

"Too many people go about their curriculum without realizing what the necessities are for transferring," said Caprice Terry of the Valley Career Transfer Center. "Students complete two or three years of school and then

wonder why they're not ready to transfer in their chosen field, that's what we're here for."

The evening's contributors included The Children's Hospital of Los Angeles, California State University, Northridge, Loyola Marymount University, Pacific Oaks and the University of La Verne. The fair offered jobs and opportunities for students to apply their skills before they graduate and get a grasp of where they're headed.

Community Colleges Pledge
Support for Poll Workers

■ Students recognized as resource for poll workers.

BY TIFFANY FARMAKIS

STAFF WRITER

Attempting to reverse the traditional lack of student participation in the election process, Los Angeles Community College District trustee, Warren Furutani proposes turning to all nine community college campuses in the Los Angeles area to yield students to be poll workers for the upcoming 2004 election cycle.

"Studies show that if people become poll workers, they become avid voters and advocates for voting the rest of their lives," Furutani said. "This would be a great habit to start with community college students."

Less than half of citizens between the ages of 20 and 30 are registered to vote and just more than a third of those registered actually vote, according to a report released by the United States Census Bureau.

Furutani's proposal, "The Los Angeles District Poll Workers Program" gives students the privilege to work with voters while implementing the new touch screen system that is expected to replace traditional punch card ballots.

"I like the concept," Valley College President Tyree Wieder said. "I think it's important for students to participate in the electoral process."

The new touch screen system developed as a response to "The Help America Vote Act," enacted in 2002 to prevent the chaos of the 2000 elections from re-occurring. The act includes improving voting practices by replacing

outdated voting systems, making polling places and voting systems accessible to people with disabilities and language minorities, creating statewide voter registration databases that can be more effectively managed and updated so that errors are reduced and educating voters on voting procedures as well as their rights.

"The professors we're working with are offering students different incentives to participate," Furutani said. "This includes class credit, fulfilling project requirements and other creative options."

Some students argue that the "hands-on" experience participants would be receiving is more than enough and that the other benefits are unnecessary.

"Being a poll worker is a civic duty," history student Kristy Turner said. "You shouldn't have to get credit for it."

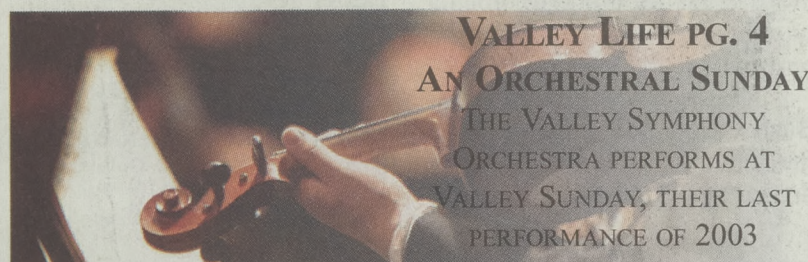
Others disagree. "People would be more apt to become involved if it were offered as a class credit," anthropology student Heidi Pomrenke said.

As of now, it's uncertain when or how Valley College will implement this program.

As a final incentive to students, Furutani acknowledged that participants would be paid by their local County Registrar's Office and have an excused absence from school.

Interested students can contact the Los Angeles Community College District Board of Trustees at (213) 891-2044 with any additional questions.

VALLEY LIFE PG. 4
AN ORCHESTRAL SUNDAY
THE VALLEY SYMPHONY
ORCHESTRA PERFORMS AT
VALLEY SUNDAY, THEIR LAST
PERFORMANCE OF 2003



SPORTS PG. 8
B-BALL VICTORY
THE VALLEY MONARCHS
SEND THE EAST L.A.
COLLEGE HUSKIES TO THE
DOGHOUSE IN A 72-69 WIN



GALLERY PG. 10
MLS CUP
THREE VALLEY STAR PHOTOGRAPHERS EXPERIENCE THE HEARTACHE AND JOY OF THE MAJOR LEAGUE SOCCER CUP



NEWS REEL

RETURN TO YESTERYEAR:

Monday marked the unveiling of a new hot foods line in the Cafeteria with the introduction of traditional Thanksgiving fare. The future of the hot foods line depends upon student interest. If successful, the Cafeteria will offer a variety of popular items throughout the year.

NEW COURSES:

The Los Angeles Community College District Board of Trustees approved two new courses for Valley College Nov. 5. "The Introduction to the Care and Prevention of Athletic Injuries" (3 units) and "Advanced Concepts in the Care and Prevention of Athletic Injuries" (3 units) will be added to the Athletic Training schedule in the future.

MORE MONEY:

The LACCD Board of Trustees ratified a proposal to accept \$150,465 from the California State University, Northridge College of Extended Learning for the Customizes Writing and Decision Making Program at Valley College.

Peer Mentoring Encourages Foster Youth

■ Campus Peer Mentoring may help foster youth stay in college.

BY TAMMY ABBOTT
VALLEY LIFE EDITOR

When foster children enter the adult world they often lack some basic skills. Last week, The Valley Star presented a piece about the Independent Living Program. Presented here is the second of a three-part series about the programs created to assist emancipated foster children.

There is a small window of opportunity for foster children ages 16 to 21 to advance into a successful adulthood. For the 4,000 youths who will be on their own, living and working in our communities this year, escaping the poverty that may await them once emancipated from the Department of Children and Family Services system is their challenge. Education and help through Campus Peer Mentoring can be the key to their success.

Navigating the college ropes

is sometimes difficult, even for those students who have access to experienced adults and their wisdom. Help with all the details and day-to-day struggles is where the Independent Living Program ends and where a new pilot program, Campus Peer Mentoring begins.

Valley College has been anxious to acquire the funds to start the Campus Peer Mentoring program. "We would love to have the program here, it would be a great and valuable asset to our campus," said Yasmin Delahoussaye, vice president of Student Services.

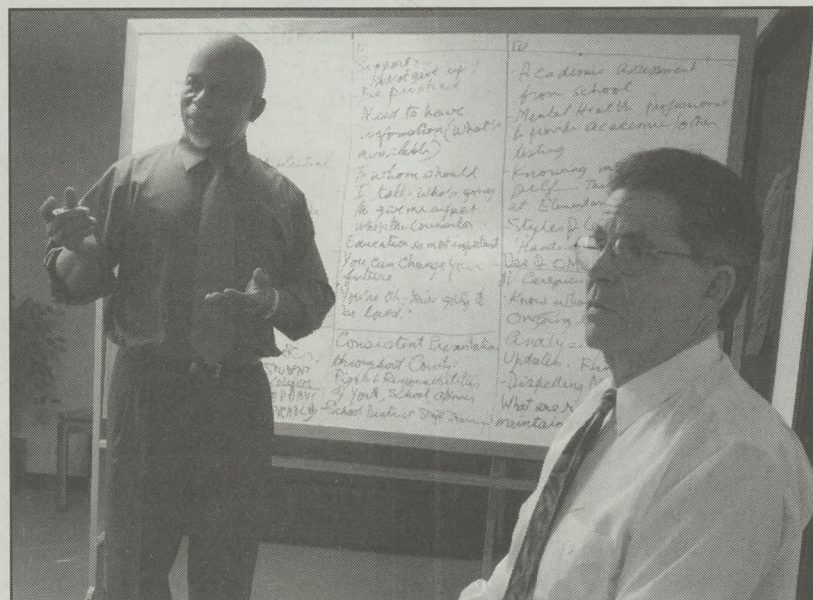
"Life is not a 45-minute program," said Berkeley Harris, Community College Foundation program manager for the Independent Living Program. Harris' experience of having a mentor as he grew up inspired him to build the program.

In the '90s he asked the Ontario, Canada police to

become mentors to youths in the community. "It does take a village to raise a child because if you have a caring community, the child will succeed," Harris said. "It's a living program with principles in place. One example is how to guide foster youth through transitions and managing change."

Harris explains with a brief exercise: "Close your eyes and pretend you are now blind. How do you get out of this room? What is going through your mind? Some students say I'm going to learn Braille. Learning Braille takes time and is the transition. Change is just the temporary things, what to wear or eat."

Peer mentoring differs in its approach from the traditional mentor/mentee role in that it's a "horizontal" relationship as well as interchangeable. Foster youth of similar age groups are paired to encourage and help



TAMMY ABBOTT/VALLEY STAR

PEER PILOT - Program Manager Berkeley Harris speaks to program participants and community members at the October meeting.

new or struggling students to battle daunting odds. Only 25 percent of foster children enroll in college; of those, 67 percent eventually drop out.

One of the contributing factors for the high dropout rate is lack of housing, a frequent

problem for emancipated foster children. A successful education requires a relatively stable living situation; the mentoring program works to equalize the unique pressures their charges face.

See *Foster* page 6

Tofurky Appears on Banquet Table

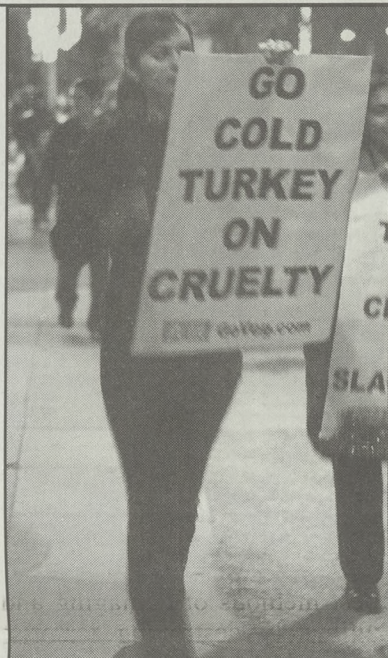
■ Not everyone will be carving a bird to celebrate Thanksgiving.

BY JACQUI BROWN
STAFF WRITER

Thousands of families will celebrate Thanksgiving as they gather around the dining table to check out the centerpiece, the turkey or Tofurky.

Since the first thanksgiving in 1621, when Gov. William Bradford sent "four men fowling," turkey, a term used to describe any sort of wild fowl has been closely associated with this feast.

The traditional faire of turkey, cranberries, mashed potatoes, stuffing, gravy and pumpkin pie has graced dining room tables across America for decades. It's a meal that gives you the most bang for the buck depending on the size of the bird and stretches out for at least the following week in the



TAMMY ABBOTT/VALLEY STAR

NO TURKEY - PETA Protesters marched down Ventura Boulevard to encourage the public not to eat turkey.

form of sandwiches or soup. It's the meal that just keeps on giving long after the roasting pan has been retired to the cupboard till the next holiday.

See *Tofurky* page 6

Valley Students Wary of Overcharging

■ Students should be wary of accruing consumer debt this holiday season.

BY SUSAN MALTBY
STAFF WRITER

Holiday spending often leads to buyer's remorse and credit-card debt, stress specialists say. The biggest source of consumer anxiety is spending, according to a recent poll by Prevention Magazine and Dateline NBC.

"We live in a generation of 'I want it now and I'll pay later.' Unfortunately, later comes later and later. Then you end up owing more and more," said Valley College student Ellen Nathan.

The average shopper will

spend \$671.89 on gifts this holiday season, a 3.5 percent increase from 2002, according to the National Retail Federation's 2003 Holiday Consumer Intentions and Actions survey.

Forty-one percent of people rate the Christmas and Hanukkah holidays "somewhat or very stressful," according to the poll.

Nathan, a second year liberal arts student, is determined not to fall into a pit of high-interest credit card debt. Nathan also feels that it's important for parents to teach responsible spending and prudent credit card use

to their children.

"I'm aware of the allure of credit cards; major credit card companies target students," Nathan said. "The unfortunate aspect of that is twofold. Parents should teach their children to be more responsible, and people just need to use their common sense."

"I have a 15-year-old daughter and we went over the credit management issue," she added. "It's good to have a credit card but you have to use it only when you really need it."

Credit counselors and debt

See *Credit* page 6

ETUDES Improve Education

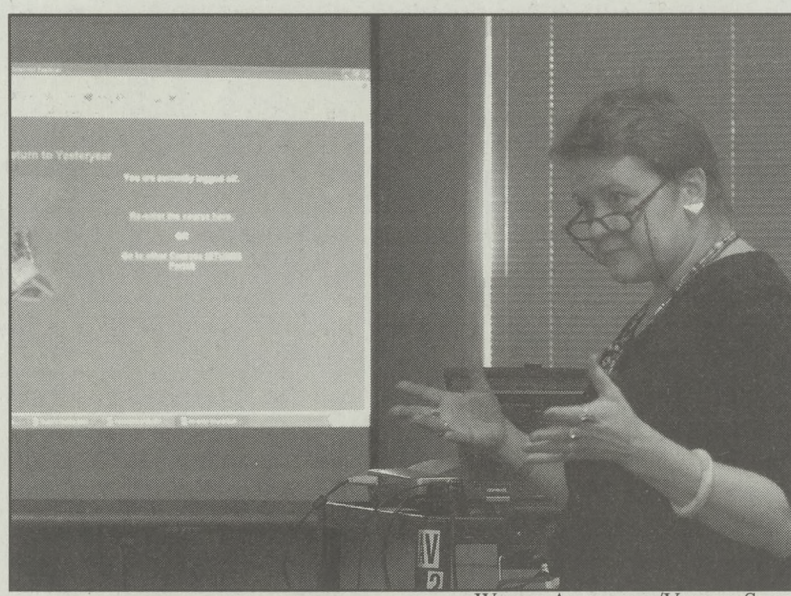
■ Virtual Valley Director Marion Heyn educates faculty on online software.

BY VINCENT BRUCIA
STAFF WRITER

English professor and director of Virtual Valley Marion Heyn presented ETUDES, Easy To Use Distance Education Software in the Monarch Den Thursday. Heyn familiarized Valley College faculty members with the program, introducing the possibilities and benefits of web-enhanced instruction and encouraging the integration of online education into their curriculum.

"Traditional lecture is the least effective technique of teaching," Heyn said. "It's a passive activity for the learner." Online courses are interactive for students, and can be accessed at any time, creating a flexible learning environment for busy students.

Foothill College's Michael Loceff designed ETUDES a little less than a decade ago. More than 10,000 students on eight out of 10 campuses in



WENDY ALVARADO/VALLEY STAR

ONLINE EDUCATION - Marion Heyn, director of the Virtual Valley program, introduces a new program called Easy to Use Distance Education Software in the Monarch Den Thursday.

the Los Angeles Community College District system, including nearly 50 faculty members and more than 3,000 Valley College students, are currently using fully online, web-enhanced or hybrid courses that combine regular classroom instruction with

online instruction.

"I would love to take my courses online but I don't have a computer at home," said music student Robyn Rose. Rose was the victim of a hit and run car accident. "It would be a lot easier for me because

See *ETUDES* page 6

Huffington Kicks Off Speaker Series

■ Commentator and author stresses need for "alternative moral vision."

BY MICHAEL ORDOÑA
OPINION EDITOR

Arianna Huffington, resplendent and surprisingly tall in a sleek gray suit, regaled a partisan crowd with biting criticism of the Bush Administration, torpedoed Democrats for their lack of leadership and issued a call for grassroots political involvement at the Valley Cities Jewish Community Center earlier this month.

"It's not enough for the Democratic nominee to have a perfect exposé of the Bush Administration; the nominee will have to have an alternative moral vision for the country," the

author, commentator and recent gubernatorial candidate said. "The vision of George Bush and Arnold Schwarzenegger is very clear ... it rewards success and punishes failure; tax cuts as opposed to programs."

Huffington did not spare the Democrats from her wrath as she described the inspiration for her new book, "Fanatics and Fools": "It's about the fanatics who run the Republican Party and the fools who are the congenitally spineless leaders of the Democratic Party."

More than 300 people, with heavy representation from teens and senior citizens, heard Huffington's 45-minute talk.

The Nov. 18 lecture was the first in a series of "Five Provocative Speakers" at VCJC in Sherman Oaks; the next will be by former United Nations Weapons Inspector Scott Ritter on Dec. 16.

Valley College student Oleg Kagan said, "I thought the speech was really good. The main point was that the public should get away from listening to [media interference] and start focusing on what's really important."

The overwhelmingly anti-Bush crowd had a laugh when the author asked if anyone in the house supported the president's

See *Speaker* page 6

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BE A PART OF STUDENT GOVERNMENT

Open Position:
Chief Justice

The Chief Justice is responsible for investigating inappropriate behavior by members of the Executive Council and Inter-Club Council.

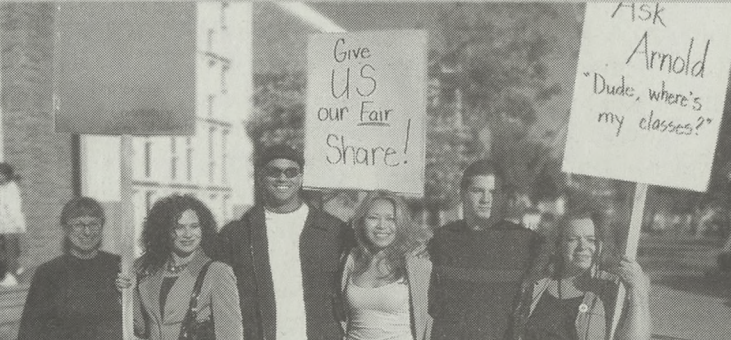
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For more information, call (818) 778-5516

Club Day Club Night

9 a.m. - 2 p.m.

5 p.m. - 9 p.m.

in Monarch Square
Monday, December 3rd

Correction

In last week's article, "Broadcasting Club Struggles for Funds," The Valley Star incorrectly reported that the funds requested by the organization from the Associated Student Union had been denied. At press time, the request for funds was pending further review. The Broadcasting Club has since received \$527.86 from the general contingency fund and additional funds from the Inter-Club Council.

OPINION

3

Blood On the Dance Floor

■ Michael Jackson has gotten away with too much, too long. He's bad and he's dangerous.

BY BENJAMIN FAVELA
STAFF WRITER

*You love to pretend that you're good
When you're always up to no good ...
Treacherous, cunnin', declinin'
You got my baby cryin'*

--Michael Jackson
"Wanna Be Startin' Somethin'"

Rarely do I respond to current events with fury. For the most part, I stay objective, wait for the facts and try to make a fair judgment. But when I think of the charges brought against pop superstar Michael Jackson, that is tough to do.

Growing up, I would learn of friends and family members who have been raped or molested. The only thing nearly as bad as being raped or molested yourself is to love somebody who has been. Because you want to help as much as you can. Because the details hurt too much. Because, after listening to the victim tell their story, you know that there's nothing you can do to help them overcome the pain.

To a child, an act of sexual abuse can be a fate worse than death. Almost as damaging can be an act of betrayal. These two often go hand-in-hand. If the Jackson allegations are true, they certainly do.

Like most people I know, I grew up listening to Michael Jackson's music. I would listen to "Thriller" constantly, and I still consider it one of the best albums ever made. I watched "Moonwalker" so many times that I could recite the script verbatim.

Charming and pithy pull quote, a wonderful tidbit that will make people read on.

You should have seen me beg my parents to buy me a Sega Genesis when I learned that a video game was being made of the movie. When they didn't, I spent about the gross national product of Sweden at the arcade on that game.

I was 11 when the rumors first surfaced in 1993, too young to fully comprehend the charges against him. Now, at 21, I'm p****d off. Because now I'm old enough to understand that this man, a god to many, has possibly committed the ultimate betrayal with these salacious acts.

In the infamous ABC television interview with Martin Bashir, Jackson said he saw nothing wrong with sharing a bed with young boys. I'm sorry, 45-year-old Michael, but sharing your bed with a child — especially after the 1993 controversy — does not a sane man make.

I'm don't know if the charges are true. I pray they're not. But I'm quickly losing faith. When I saw the press conference

held by Santa Barbara County District Attorney Tom Sneddon and heard that an arrest warrant had been issued after authorities searched Neverland Ranch, I knew they must have found something. Something terrible.

Jackson should be out there now denying these charges. He should go on every news show he can and assure us he did no wrong. He should say it ain't so. By standing mute, all he does is tighten the noose around his neck.

But if these charges are true, if he ruined this child's life and possibly more lives, I will make sure that I'm at his funeral to moonwalk on his grave.

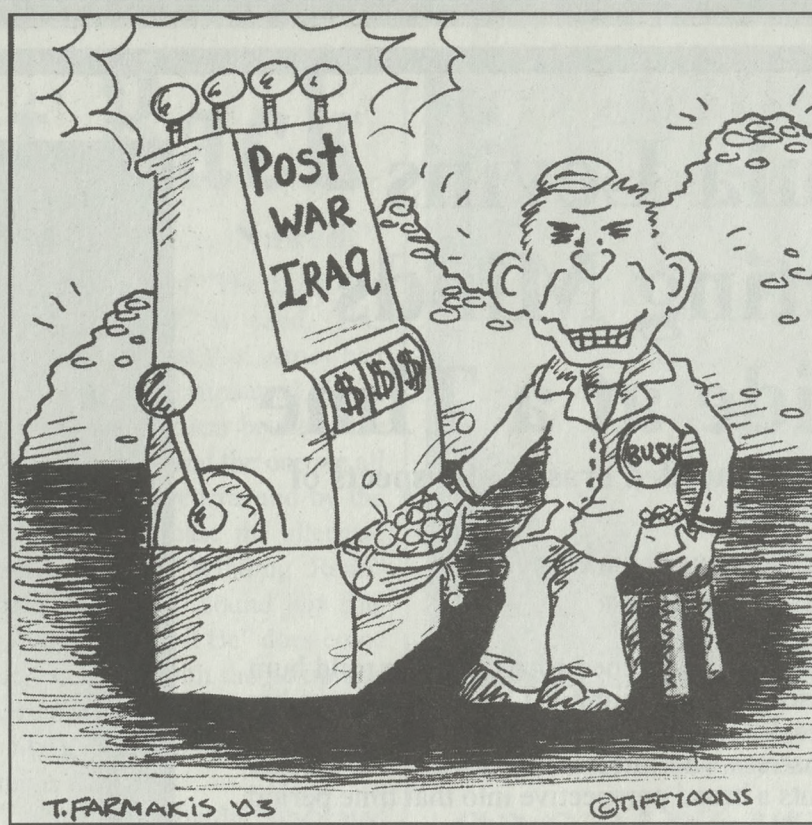


ILLUSTRATION BY TIFFANY FARMAKIS / VALLEY STAR

The Carpetbaggers

■ The Bush Administration and its friends have made billions off misery at home and abroad.

BY MICHAEL ORDOÑA
OPINION EDITOR

The American Civil War wreaked more havoc on this nation than any other event in its history, forever changing the way the country saw itself. But that didn't stop a good man from makin' a buck.

Behold the carpetbaggers, those industrious fellows from up north who strolled on down to Dixie to cash in on the chaos of the Reconstruction. The spirit of these much-maligned entrepreneurs lives on today among the close associates of the Bush Administration — it's just another way our leaders are

carrying on great American traditions around the world.

In fact, the wars in Afghanistan and Iraq have proven a veritable bonanza of lucrative government contracts ... for the properly connected, of course. Why, just look at Vice President Dick Cheney's former company, Halliburton. This shining example of the Yankee can-do attitude has found ways to bite into the bitter lemon that is our occupation of Iraq and make rich, sweet lemonade. Underscore "rich."

Before the first target of opportunity had been attacked, Halliburton had secured a contract to support U.S. forces and rebuild oil infrastructure in Iraq with an estimated ceiling of \$7 billion. And they managed to do it without the pesky process of bidding. Now, that's smart business.

Why was such a massive contract awarded without competitive bidding? Apparently because there just ain't no one who can build roads and transport oil like good old Halliburton. Unless, of course, it's just about anyone else.

It turns out that Halliburton charged Uncle Sam more than twice what industry experts think is fair to import fuel into Iraq, costing taxpayers millions. It may seem strange that we paid an American company exorbitant prices to export oil to Iraq, the nation with the world's second-largest oil reserves. But isn't that just another example of Yankee salesmanship? If you can sell oil to the Iraqis, you can sell anything to anyone.

Party poopers Henry

See *Carpetbaggers* page 6

ONE WAY OR ANOTHER

EACH WEEK, THE VALLEY STAR EXAMINES AN ISSUE FROM TWO SIDES.

THIS WEEK: SHOULD MARIJUANA BE LEGALIZED?

SMOKE GETS IN YOUR EYES

BY PETER O'CONNOR
STAFF WRITER

The prevailing belief that marijuana is a harmless drug is simply wrong.

Its use for medicinal purposes is growingly accepted, but as long as it is illegal it shouldn't be liberally available, even to those suffering from AIDS, cancer, glaucoma or other ailments. While everyone can agree that they should have some access to analgesics, legitimizing this illicit substance only exacerbates the problem of marijuana proliferation.

Marijuana is the most-used illegal drug in this country, according to the Partnership for a Drug-Free America. Aside from alcohol it is the easiest substance to get your hands on to distort your mental processes.

From personal experience I can't deny that, while living in Manhattan, pot was only a phone call away. You just had to ring the right person, make some coffee, brush your teeth and before you know it there was someone at your door with an eighth, an ounce or even a pound for sale.

The same is true all over the country. Sometimes you go through your "guy" or two or three middlemen, but regardless, coming across "chronic" is not a difficult task to tackle.

Anyone who has ever smoked pot knows how difficult it is to function under its influence.

Over time the user feels increasingly immune to its effects and so uses more and more to get a sufficient buzz. The same thing occurs with alcohol, cocaine, food, sex and anything else that builds up a tolerance level over continuous use.

Everybody knows the downside of smoking pot and

getting high. The active chemical in marijuana, delta-9-tetrahydrocannabinol (THC), causes reckless behavior and destroys brain cells.

Apart from being horrible for your health and extremely expensive, pot causes many other problems associated with psychoactive drugs. Short-term effects of marijuana include problems with memory and learning, distorted perception, trouble with thinking and problem solving, loss of motor coordination, increased heart rate, and anxiety.

These effects are even greater when other drugs or alcohol are mixed with cannabis, which is more often the rule than the exception when more than one person is involved.

Because of the past myths that pot doesn't hurt you, it is considered a "gateway drug." Since people regard it as harmless, it turns out to be the perfect startup vehicle, usually the first step in the experimental drug process.

According to the National Drug and Safety League, the younger the user, the greater the chance that weed will lead to other, harder drugs. Users tend to lose interest in other areas and focus on experimenting for a greater high.

People have to sit down and think what this plant really does to somebody rather than how neat it would be if everybody could get high whenever they wanted to. If you want to be around that environment then leave. Go to Brussels or Amsterdam but get the hell out of here.

Put down whatever you are smoking, let the cobwebs in your brain clear and really think about how stupid the legalization would be.

THE OTHER WAR WE'RE LOSING

BY SUSAN MALTBY
STAFF WRITER

With eyes wide open, bloodshot or not, society needs to re-think some of the financial and legal issues surrounding illicit drugs, especially marijuana.

Drug abuse and addiction are devastating and tragic scourges to humanity. But we are losing the war on drugs.

Prohibition is not working. The estimated medical and social costs of drug abuse exceed \$276 billion annually, according to a recent report in Alcohol and Drug Abuse Weekly. Despite draconian measures, there are 14 million people in this country who are chemically dependent.

Current policy deals with drugs as a criminal issue, not a public health issue — neither the causes nor the effects are addressed, but the users are demonized. To make any progress, we need to deter organized crime and to support programs that help people overcome dependency.

Cannabis use is much less pervasive and damaging than that of tobacco and alcohol. If the goal of policymakers is to reduce harm, it is hypocrisy for our society to allow tobacco and alcohol but ban marijuana.

The price to society of marijuana use is negligible compared to the costs of criminal proceedings and incarceration associated with cannabis-related offenses.

Decriminalization of pot would free more resources to address serious problems associated with more dangerous narcotics. Current policies foster an underground drug trade that allows organized crime and clandestine terrorist organizations to flourish.

According to the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC), national drug laws often backfire and actually end up helping fund organized crime and terrorist

groups around the world.

UNODC has developed model laws aimed at reducing the drug money that is used to fund terrorism. Drug trafficking operations in the United States are a major asset of terrorist networks.

"Just as anti-money laundering actions against drug traffickers have been highly effective," said James Callahan, director of Treaty Affairs at UNODC, "attacking the financial assets used by terrorist organizations is one of the best methods of damaging and ultimately destroying terrorist networks."

Most of the UNODC efforts are aimed at demand reduction as a means of control over the drug cartels. Legalizing marijuana would force organized crime out of the cannabis business.

Our laws have arisen from beliefs that drug use is morally wrong, or that making a law is an effective way of eliminating problematic behavior. But locking up marijuana users is impractical and costly.

Moral and philosophical positions aside, what we're doing now isn't reducing use. Punitive drug policies aimed towards recreational drug users contribute to the further destruction of lives already marred by drug abuse and dependence. These policies lead drug addicts further down a path of despair and dependence.

A criminal record and prison time is not going to help anyone faced with the Herculean challenge of overcoming chemical addiction. We can and must reach drug addicts with a message of hope. We can help chemically-dependent people learn to believe that a life free of drugs is a life worth living.

Punitive and reactionary marijuana laws are a waste of resources, time and money.

Campus View

PHOTOS BY BENJAMIN FAVELA



"No, because it will cause more harm than good. More people would use it because it's legal."

Maria Garza



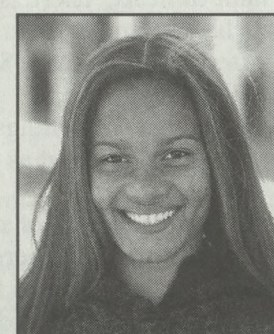
"No, I don't think it should be [legalized]. It would give more kids the ability to abuse it, to get high."

Christina Recentes



"I'm against [legalization], but they should legalize it because people are going to do it anyway."

Alyssa Stark



"Yes, so people can realize the consequences of using marijuana."

Patricia Vargas

Should marijuana be legalized?

Letter to the Editor

■ Re: "Jessica Lynch, American Idol (Nov. 3)"

I am an American. I am also a Native American. I freely choose who my heroes are. Quite frankly every single soldier who has ever served MY country is a hero in my book. Why? Because I love my country that much.

Jessica Lynch is a hero to many of us not because she was a real-life Rambo ... but because she inspires us with her grace, dignity, determination, and yes -- her beauty.

So is Jessica Lynch a Hero? She may not think so, but in my mind ... most definitely.

Do you get choked up and have to hold back tears when you see an American flag waving in the breeze? I thought not. Do you cry when you hear/sing the National Anthem? I thought not. How did I know? I know because I can tell by your words in this article. You are not patriotic.

You are probably here in my country only because you would not want to live in a third world country like an animal. No, you would rather live here in my rich and beautiful country where we take care of the foreigner, paying their way through college and putting food on their table.

It's ingrates like you that leave a very nasty taste in my mouth. The next time you bite into your favorite food or take a nice cold drink of your favorite liquid, I hope you take time to think of and say a small prayer for the Jessica Lynches of my country.

Why? Because the blood she spilled is valuable and worth something to proud Americans like me. There are brave heroes in Iraq right now ready to die for a person like you to live peacefully in a land that was not yours to begin with.

SONJA M. LONE WOLF BROWN
CHILD DEVELOPMENT MAJOR

THE VALLEY STAR
welcomes your comments and criticism.
E-mail us at TheValleyStar@yahoo.com
or drop us a line at BJ114.
Be sure to include your name and contact information.
Please limit your letters to 200-300 words. Letters may be edited for publication.
(818) 947-2576

CAMPUS SCENE

Tuesday, Dec. 2

Student Performances
Music Recital Hall
11:20 a.m.

Thursday Dec. 4

Rhonda Dillon, soprano
Paul Floyd
Music Recital Hall
11:30 a.m.

Friday Dec. 5

LAVC Guitar Ensemble
Robert Mayeur, director
Music Recital Hall
8:00 p.m. admission fee

Sunday Dec. 7

Annual Holiday Choral
Celebration
Jennifer Kelly, director
Monarch Hall
7:00 p.m. admission fee

Monday Dec. 8

LAVC Wind Ensemble
Dean Immel, conductor
Mainstage Theatre
8:00 p.m.

Monday Dec. 9

Student Performances
Music Recital Hall
11:20 a.m.

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Eugenia Levins - Affecting Minds One Slide at a Time

■ From marble to the kneaded eraser, all aspects of art history are explored.

BY TIFFANY FARMAKIS
STAFF WRITER

Standing in the middle of a darkened room over the mild hum of the projector, Professor Eugenia Sumnik-Levins introduces her students to classical Greek sculpture and architecture.

Like a skilled seamstress, she interweaves several stories that not only give her students a broad perspective into that time period but captivate them as well.

"A lot of people are surprised to find out I'm shy about public speaking," she said. "People think I took acting classes. I really do get dramatic."

The Michigan native started out wanting to be an English major, but a professor she had while attending Oakland University convinced her into studying art history.

Finding formal approaches to art history boring, Levins followed this professor to the University of California, Los Angeles (UCLA) to study the sociological aspect of art history, a rare subject which was only offered at a few schools.

"Everything just clicked for me," she said. "I love anthropology and this form of art history blended all my interests."

She had never anticipated staying in California, but then again, she had never anticipated becoming a teacher either.

"My husband followed me out here and got a job, Levins said. I was in a transitional point in my educational career, studying an unconventional field. I knew I was going to have to do field work and I needed to make some decisions. I received financial aide and eventually got a job working as a teaching assistant at UCLA that lasted three years."

I never wanted to be a teacher, Levins said and continued modestly. I always wanted to do museum work.

Deciding to take time off after getting pregnant, she was offered a job at the Getty Center for the History of Art and the Humanities.

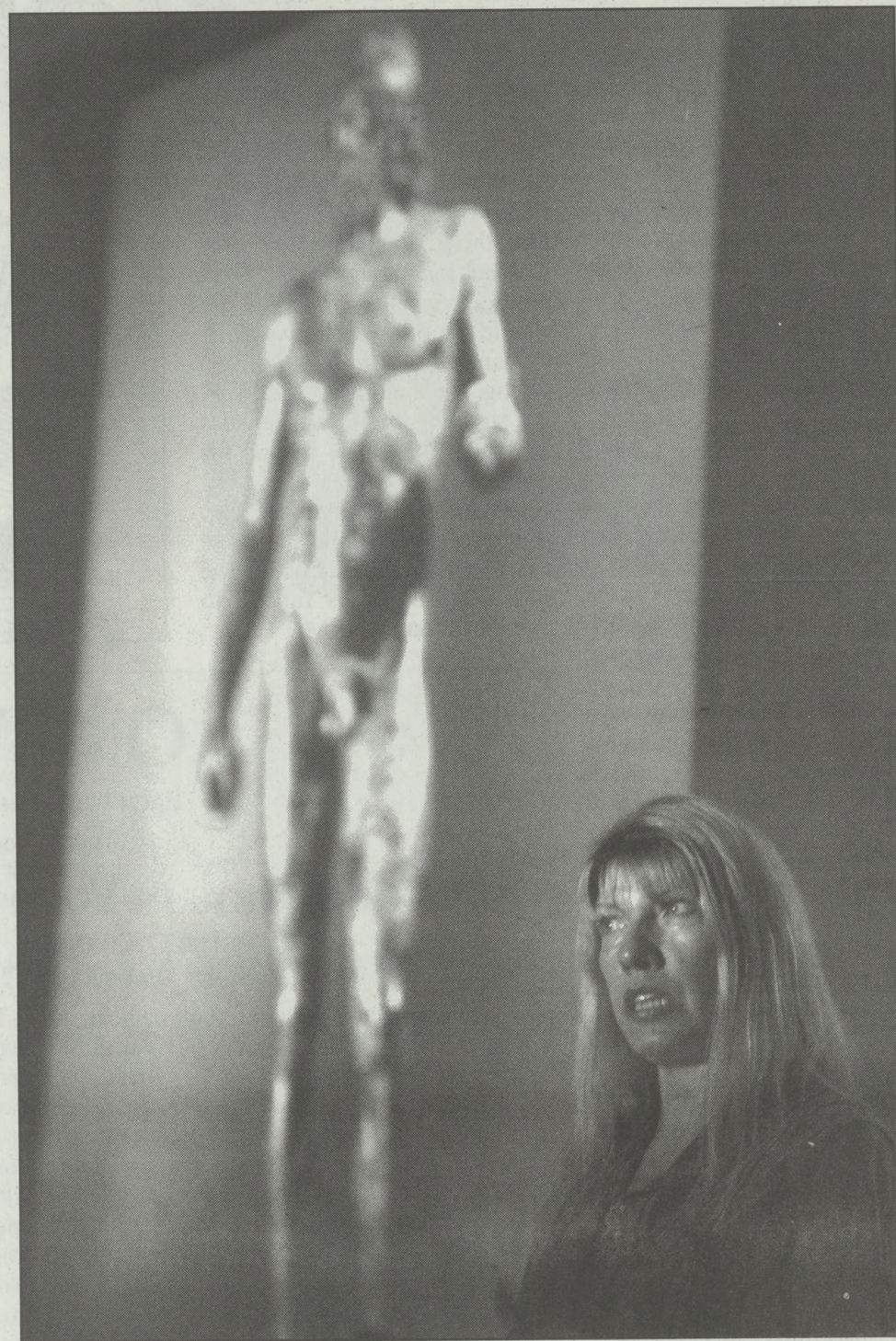
"A friend of mine had contacted me. She was taking a new position in San Francisco and had to come up with an eclectic person to take her place. She thought of me."

Admitting that she never did finish her PhD, she continued working at the Getty when she was contacted by another friend, this time a professor at Valley College.

"I was already teaching part time at Moorpark College and continued working at the Getty. I was simultaneously working three jobs at the same time. My job at Valley College was only supposed to be temporary."

Fifteen years later she is still standing in the same classroom teaching the same subject that she loves.

"I have had so many memorable experiences at Valley. Teaching helped me get over my fear of speaking. I really enjoy it here. The diversity of the student body, with people of all ages and all ethnic backgrounds, is really invigorating. I'd like to think



SALVADOR AGUILAR/VALLEY STAR
ART SEAMSTRESS - Art professor Eugenia Sumnik-Levins, a native of Michigan, has been teaching at Valley for 15 years. The Art History 1 teacher has been in the same room for as long as she has been teaching at Valley

most of my students are going to love the art and will remember some of what I've talked about."

She smiled when she mentioned the former students of hers that still send letters and cards. It is obvious she has made an impact on most of her students.

"I've never met a student that didn't love her," student Jill Adams said. "She makes learning fun. Her enthusiasm spills onto her students."

"She's very accessible, unlike most professors," chemistry student, Nadia Chowdhury said. "You can discuss anything with her. She's not one of those professors who would put you down for not knowing something. There is no such thing as a stupid question to her."

"I wake up every morning looking forward to going into work," Levins admitted. "I really love the students and I really love the art. I feel honored to teach it."

Take A Hike:

LA TUNA CANYON

BY KATHY ARELLANO
STAFF WRITER

Minutes away from the hustle and bustle of city life, when one is in La Tuna Canyon, the bird sounds and smell of trees and chaparral soothe the rattled senses. The environment is perfect for a hike.

Constructed in the spring of 1989 by the Los Angeles Conservation Corps, the La Tuna Foot Trail was the first built in modern times to explore the Verdugo Mountains, according to "Afoot and Afield in Los Angeles County" author Jerry Schad.

"La Tuna" is the Spanish word for the baseball-sized, reddish-peach colored fruit that decorates the prickly pear cactus — an inherent part of Southern California's landscape. This is particularly so in La Tuna Canyon, an area between Sun Valley and La Crescenta.

Most of the canyon's interior slopes have been razed, making way for homes and domestic flora, but there are still large patches of the wild cactus and the fruit is a favorite with the cardinals and blue jays.

The foot trail entrance is approximately one mile south of the Foothill (210) Freeway on La Tuna Canyon Road at a small turnout. The trail steps change to a single track trail (a narrow bike trail) farther up, creating a loop with the Hostetter fire road, then the La Tuna Canyon Mountainway.

Bicyclists and hikers can access the more visible Mountainway trailhead located immediately south of the freeway exit. There is adequate parking nearby and the fire roads are well maintained, but steep in areas.

This ride or hike is not for the faint of heart. There is a 1,417-foot elevation change and the trails are hot and dry with many switchbacks and hard terrain. But the panoramic view from the 3,300-foot peaks is extraordinary, offering views from San Pedro to Granada Hills, according to 16-year-old Eagle Scout Steven Kilbert.

"Most people ride or hike in the mornings or evenings and on weekends," Kilbert said. "It's cool to watch the city life in the morning and at night as well as airplanes at the Van Nuys and Burbank airports."

This ride/hike requires a better-than-average level of stamina and experience. Layer clothing and wear sturdy footwear. Bring plenty of water and energy food, such as a nutrition bar or trail mix. Be careful — this is a popular area for rattlesnakes and poison oak.

"It is a good ride for an intermediate and challenged rider, but would also be a good day hike," Kilbert said. "I recommend a mountain bike with good shocks and brakes."

From Valley College, take your favorite route to the Ventura (134) Freeway east heading toward Pasadena. Take the Glendale (2) Freeway north to the Foothill (210) Freeway west. Exit at La Tuna Canyon Road. Turn left at the bottom of the ramp and drive under the freeway. Just beyond the overpass and to the left is the Mountainway trailhead. If you travel another mile on La Tuna Canyon, the second turnout area on the left marks the foot trailhead.

For pictures visit www.socantbr.com and click on the La Tuna link. Visit www.nwsla.noaa.gov/forecast.html and click on 'valleys' for local weather information.



SALVADOR AGUILAR/VALLEY STAR
TRAIL MIX - Hidden in the Verdugo Mountains among the oaks and chaparral is La Tuna Canyon. The narrow trail winds up and through the mountains. Any hiker or biker looking for a challenge will not be disappointed.

VALLEY LIFE

5

The Beatles Get Back

■ Fab Four's final release gets stripped for "Let It Be ... Naked."

BY MICHAEL ORDOÑA
OPINION EDITOR

Phil Spector is guilty.

At least that's what Beatle fans have been saying for years: The progenitor of the "Wall of Sound" production technique ham-handedly suffocated "Let It Be" with his overblown strings and muddy overdubs. Apparently, some folks in the Fab Four's camp — including Sir Paul McCartney himself — agree with that assessment and have sanctioned the release of "Let It Be ... Naked," which purports to restore the album to the group's intent by removing all traces of Spector's work.

The results are mixed.

The credits on the album are sketchy, although it's known that Glyn Johns, the engineer of the original sessions (when the project was known as "Get Back"), assisted the digital restoration. It's unclear who made the decisions about which tracks and which takes to use, or who decided on the new sequence of the material. The Beatles' long-time producer George Martin oversaw the original recordings, but as the new CD's booklet informs us, he was advised by John Lennon that "none of your production rubbish" was needed.

Martin is not credited for any part of the restoration; nor are surviving Beatles McCartney or Ringo Starr.

Unquestionably, the sound is cleaner and more present than any previous issue of the material. By moving vocals up in the mix, removing tape hiss and featuring instruments previously undervalued in Spector's product — such as many rhythm guitar parts — restorers Paul Hicks, Guy Massey and Allan Rouse have made the music sound much more "live."

The inclusion of an alternate version of "Don't Let Me Down" and the restoration of "Across the Universe" to its bare acoustic state and Lennon's intended tempo are welcome. Most of the differences, though, are detectable only by dyed-in-the-wool Beatlemaniacs. The disc's most obvious fault is that, perhaps in an effort to separate these versions from the familiar ones, the false starts and chatter that framed many of the tracks have been removed. This often results in jarringly quick fades that removes some of the rough edges that The Beatles said all along were part of their intention.

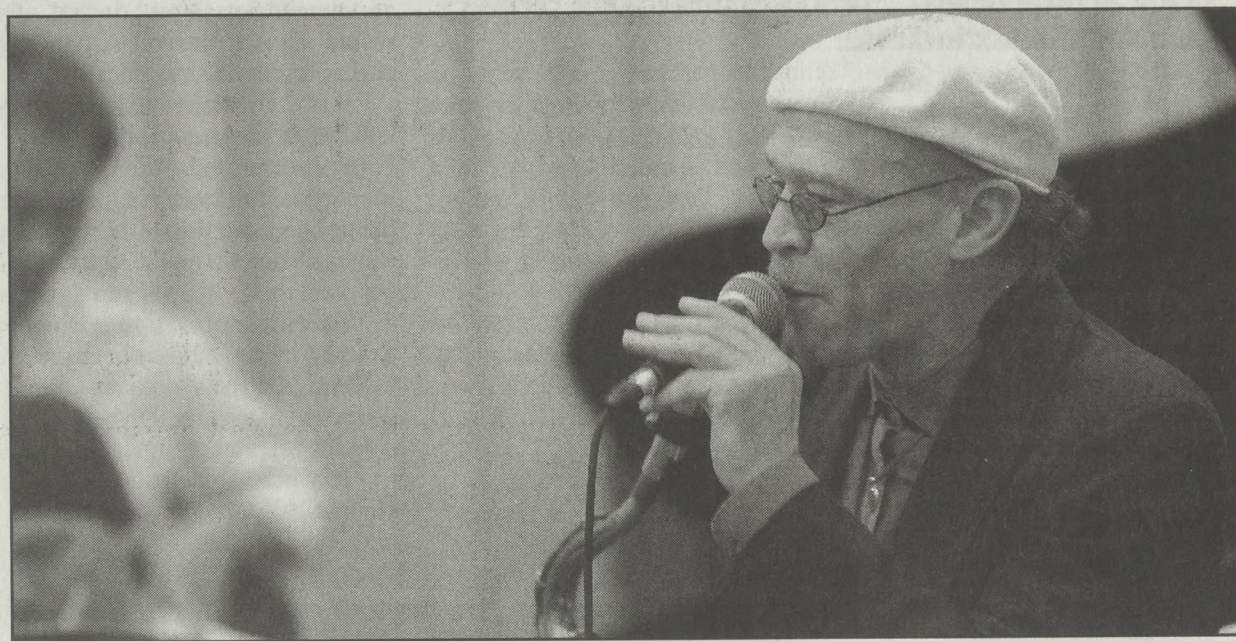
The much-anticipated showdown between the Spector and non-Spector versions never materializes, as a completely

different take of "The Long and Winding Road" is used. This was the song that McCartney had most vocally complained about, but the comparison between the "new" version and the one we all know is rendered invalid by the decision to release the alternate performance. "Winding Road" and "Let It Be" sound just fine — in fact, "Let It Be" does come across better with the pomp and circumstance removed — but it's only a TKO, not even a unanimous decision.

Spector is hardly vindicated by the collection, but he isn't sentenced to hard labor, either.

For Beatle fans, the bonus disc is the real find: About 22 minutes of studio chatter and false starts — audio excerpts from session transcripts reprinted in the accompanying booklet. Embryonic versions of Lennon's "Jealous Guy" (then called "Child of Nature") and George Harrison's "All Things Must Pass," as well as snippets of early Lennon-McCartney tunes, are heard among the group's charming exchanges. Unfortunately, no song is heard all the way through, and even the conversations are incomplete.

"Let It Be ... Naked" is a must for hardcore Beatlemaniacs, but probably not for anyone else.



WENDY ALVARADO/VALLEY STAR

KEYS OF MUSIC - Valley Jazz band member John Stephens delights the audience by singing "Witchcraft" during the band's concert in music room 112 Thursday.

GROOVY MUSIC AND ALL THAT JAZZ

BY HARRIET STEINBERG
STAFF WRITER

The peppy, rhythmic dance music alternated with the slow, sultry, romantic melody and gave the LAVC Jazz Band an exciting air. The singers' presentation to an enthusiastic audience also added to the variety of the program in music room 112 Thursday.

"This band has played with me for 15 years," said Woody James, Director of the LAVC Jazz Band, as he introduced listeners to his 19-piece band.

A diverse group of musicians peppered the band with woodwinds, trumpets, trombones and other instruments, along with the well-known

drummer, Ronnie Gutierrez. Special thanks went to Mike Julian, a full-time music professor at Valley for his expertise in sound and recording. Julian's students also received recognition for their assistance.

Some audience members remember dancing to the well-known Harry James' band music at the Hollywood Palladium, and Thursday's program brought back pleasant memories.

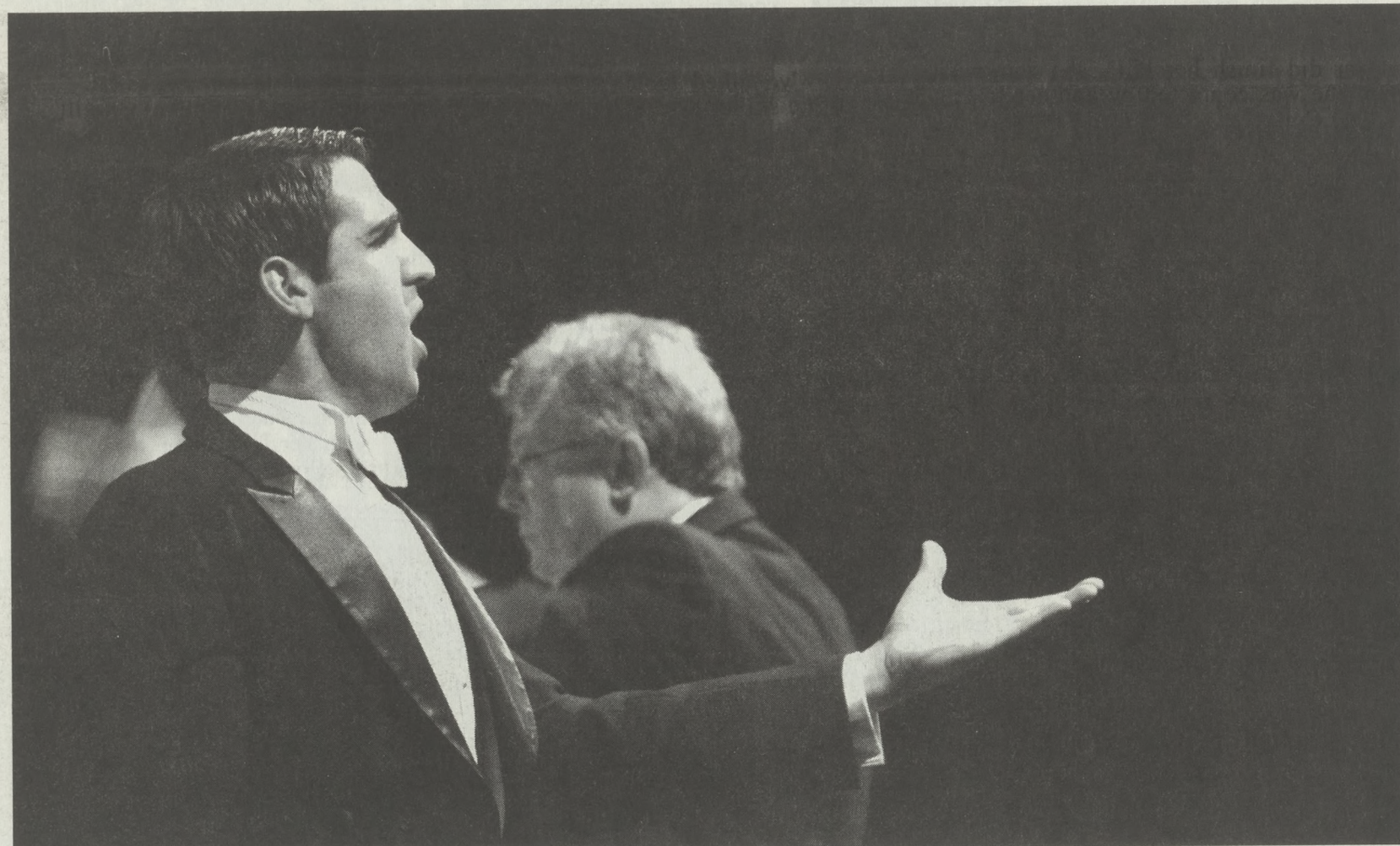
Guest clarinetist Tony Giamo played "If He Walked Into My Life," accompanied by the LAVC Jazz Band. Giamo also played "Something Special."

"I would like to think he wrote ["Something Special"] especially for us," James said when he announced the piece."

The concert also featured vocalist and arranger John Stevens. "He will not be nervous," James said, "when I tell you this is the first time he is performing." Stevens performed wearing a white beret and sunglasses. After his performance James remarked jokingly, "Anyone who wants to hire Stevens, see me after the concert."

The audience clapped to the rhythm as Sol Feldman's sang his rendition of "Sam, You Made the Pants Too Long."

"The music is an enrichment," said administration student Emanuel Ike of Uganda. "It's full of melodies. You feel a place in both the old and contemporary world," Ike said.



JORGE GALLEGOS/VALLEY STAR

A TOUCH OF LUXURY - Baritone David Babinet, front, was part of the performance held by the Valley Symphony Orchestra Sunday at Valley's Mainstage Theatre. Valley music professor, Robert Chauls, rear, conducts the orchestra.

SULTRY SYMPHONIC SOUNDS

■ Valley Symphony Orchestra performs for Valley College Sunday

BY BENJAMIN FAVELA
PHOTO EDITOR

It began as many concerts of this kind do, with the tuning of the strings. The soft preparation sounds of the instruments welcomed concertgoers to the Mainstage Theatre Sunday, heralding the Valley Symphony Orchestra's last concert of 2003.

The murmur of the crowd was silenced when concertmaster and lead violinist Sharon Cooper walked on stage and silently signaled to the orchestra to prepare for the conductor, Robert Chauls.

Chauls, artistic director of the orchestra as well as a music professor at Valley College, welcomed the crowd in Spanish that he later translated into English.

"There's something about French composers: they love Spain," Chauls said, explaining that almost every piece to

be performed that night had a Spanish influence, but was written by French composers Giuseppe Verdi, Emmanuel Chabrier, Georges Bizet and others.

"Many French composers were inspired by Spain, especially by Spanish women," Chauls said of Chabrier's "España" (Spanish Rhapsody). "We're doing what we can to keep music — good music — alive."

The orchestra opened with Verdi's "Overture to La Forza del Destino," and segued into "Largo al Factorem" from Gioacchino Rossini's classic "The Barber of Seville," with vocal assistance from baritone David Babinet.

Babinet, with his range and determined stance, has performed with the Los Angeles Opera. Sunday was his first night performing with the

Valley Symphony Orchestra. He sang the words of Figaro powerfully and ended the piece with a click of his heel and his finger pointing to the sky. Babinet also accompanied the orchestra for a performance of Bizet's "Chanson du Toreador" from his classic opera "Carmen."

"I loved [Babinet's] voice," Valley student and singer Katya Moraes said. "It was so powerful. I wished more people came, it's the only way for the orchestra to grow." The theater was three-quarters full, with approximately 100 people in attendance.

Chauls' flailing arms, starchy hand movements and stomping feet gave a passionate intensity to the performance and helped the audience get involved in the music and feel the aural heat made by the string, woodwind, brass and percussion sections.

The orchestra also played a movement from Charles Gounod's "Faust" and played two songs from Richard Rogers and Oscar Hammerstein's "South Pacific."

The concert ended with the same passionate intensity from Chauls that consumed the entire performance. Maurice Ravel's "Bolero" was chosen to end the night, and audience members watched with awe as the song opened softly and sweetly with the banging of a drum and the soothing, fluid sounds of a flute. Soon, a clarinet joined in, followed by a bassoon and an oboe.

At the end of "Bolero," Chauls moved feverishly as the music got louder and more intense. The orchestra's last notes sounded with one swift move from the hands of Chauls and two simple, loud foot stomps.

Molière's Prescription for Hypochondria

■ Valley theatre department props up "Imaginary Invalid."

BY MICHAEL ORDOÑA
OPINION EDITOR

Argan is a miserly hypochondriac who would rather have an enema than see his daughter happily married. His wife is a gold digger who can't wait to see him dead and his daughter disinherited. And the man he wants his daughter to marry is a spastic buffoon whose only virtue is that he can guarantee Argan round-the-clock, if totally unnecessary, medical care — and boatloads of enemas — for free.

Yes folks, it's French comic master Molière's "The Imaginary Invalid," presented on the Valley College Main Stage by the theatre arts department, which ran through Saturday. Directed by K.N. Milton from a crisp, if non-verse, translation by Jean Michelle, this "Invalid" gets around pretty well.

Molière's farcical indictment of hypocrisy, selfishness and ignorance is not exactly mind-bending stuff, but it still plays humorously hundreds of years after its premiere. The usual devices are present — thwarted young lovers, schemers, disguises — and played to varying degrees of success.

The production is anchored by strong work from its two leads, Kevin Peckham as Argan and Joanne Jacques as his servant, Toinette. Peckham has a strong grasp of the material and manages to convey a pouting fool who isn't an altogether bad guy. His casually uncouth insults toward Toinette are delivered with a mix of arrogance and timidity.

As per theatrical custom, Toinette is by far the most intelligent and moral character in the play, requiring quick wit and spot-on timing from the actress playing her. Happily, Jacques is

up to the task, providing a more-than-equal foil for her whining master. The highlight of the show is her inspired masquerade as a doctor even more insane than Argan's usual assortment of quacks. Abetted by a truly absurd behemoth of a beard, Jacques takes over the stage with manic blood thirst.

"The highlight of the show is Joanne Jacques inspired masquerade as a doctor even more insane than Argan's usual assortment of quacks?"

Other notable performances from the energetic cast include Adam Springfield's suave Beralde and Tim Miller's goofy Thomas Diafoirus. Miller strikes one as the love child of Roger Daltrey, Herman (late of the Hermits) and Igor (late of some mad scientist's lab). He makes an amusing suitor from hell with his convulsive dimness and alarming Tourette's-like eruptions of dialogue, but his performance would have been helped by a larger physical vocabulary.

Judy Ashton's professional quality costumes are superb. The props and set, however, add little to the atmosphere, perhaps due to budgetary constraints. There are pacing problems, but they are nothing a speed-through couldn't fix. The closing song and dance in faux Latin falls flat despite the ensemble's best efforts, and a refresher in French pronunciation, especially for character names such as Cleante ("CLAY-aunt," not "CLEE-on" as in the production), would have been a boon.

Still, thanks mainly to a dedicated cast, this "Invalid" limps along nicely.

Gov. Proposes Cuts to Balance Car Tax Repeal

Gov. Schwarzenegger proposes three-point recovery plan without tax increase.

BY JACQUI BROWN AND
KRISTA CARLSON
STAFF WRITERS

Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger was expected to propose Tuesday \$3.8 billion in budget cuts over the next two years. The cuts will target services to poor and disabled, and higher education programs.

"I just can't imagine he would be so insensitive to the needs of disabled people that he would terminate any services at all," said Kathleen Sullivan, coordinator of Disabled Students Programs and Services at Valley College.

Among the cuts are \$385 million in state services to the elderly and disabled, which advocates to the poor say would leave 74,200 people without care.

Possible cuts to education include \$110 million for outreach efforts and \$98 million in unallocated cuts.

These and additional cuts to healthcare for low-income families, nonmedical therapy programs for disabled Californians and transportation programs are intended to make up for the \$4 billion shortfall created by the vehicle license fee repeal. Even if these measures pass, the state will still be faced with at least \$17 billion in deficit through 2005.

Gov. Schwarzenegger spoke at Galpin Ford in North Hills Thursday about the repeal of the increased car tax, one of former Gov. Gray Davis' last legislative acts before leaving office.

"I despised that increase

in the car tax and I kept my promise," Schwarzenegger said. "When [politicians] start spending and spending and all of a sudden they run out of money, what do they do, they go after you. They want to punish you by increasing taxes."

Around 200 supporters of the new governor showed up to see him speak and to get a glimpse of this Hollywood star-turned-politician.

"I wanted to see him up close," said Tom Spring of Woodland Hills, an avid supporter of the new governor. "He's got a real challenge ahead of him because he doesn't yet have the support of the legislators."

Auto mechanics from Galpin surrounded Schwarzenegger as he encouraged supporters to buy cars, new or used, and pay the reduced license fee.

Car sales rose in September as consumers rushed to beat the increase deadline, said Tony Ramirez, a Galpin sales representative. "As soon as they passed the new car sales tax, sales in October dropped by 33 percent."

Schwarzenegger, alluding to his days of bodybuilding, ended his speech by asking people to help him lift this massive weight off California.

"We've taken the government back," Schwarzenegger said. "You flexed your muscles in October, now let your voices be heard so that the legislators understand that the pressure is on."

-Kathy Arellano contributed to this report.

'Thefts' continued from page 1

"Witnesses had earlier described the suspect and his vehicle, a black Ford Thunderbird with front-end collision damage, so our officers were on the lookout for both."

An officer on routine patrol at CSUN saw the suspect's car in one of the campus lots and stopped Flores. A woman identified only as Flores' fiancé along with two children, ages 1 and 5, were in the car at the time.

According to Archer, he walked up to the driver's side and saw the 5-year-old boy sitting behind the driver's seat with a car stereo at his feet. When Archer asked where the stereo came from, the boy said: "Daddy broe the window of a car and took it." Archer also observed stolen goods in the trunk of the car, which had been left open, and arrested the suspect.

"We recovered property

from five car burglaries that the suspect had just committed," Archer said. "There was also other property that we traced to two Pierce College break-ins."

A notebook computer that had been stolen two weeks prior to the arrest was also found in the car, according to police.

Flores confessed to six thefts at CSUN, leading police to call the Valley Sheriff's Department to inform security officers that they had confiscated some of the property stolen from vehicles in Valley's parking lots.

Sheriff's Detective Steve Gutierrez pulled all the car theft reports from Valley and Pierce and he, along with another detective, interviewed Flores.

He was positively identified in one Valley car burglary report by fingerprints, Gutierrez said. The suspect also made statements that he left screwdrivers in several of the cars, a statement that corresponded to evidence

'Carpetbaggers' continued from page 3

Waxman (D-Calif.) and John Dingell (D-Mich.), among others, are clamoring for the investigation of Iraq reconstruction contracts held by private firms. Because of Waxman and Dingell's efforts, the Army announced on Nov. 6 that it would cancel the oil-transport part of its Halliburton deal.

As Bracken Hendricks and Skye Perryman of Apollo Alliance reported, "The cancellation of Halliburton's contract [came] just two days after House Republicans stripped the Iraq supplemental bill of an anti-profiteering provision which would have held companies holding contracts with the U.S. government criminally accountable for price gouging."

In Cheney's defense, he says emphatically that he severed ties with Halliburton before he was elected, which is true as long as you ignore the up to \$1 million dollars in compensation he receives annually as part of his severance package, along with a host of stock options.

Halliburton has to consider that cash awfully well spent, as it keeps them in the warm fuzzies with the current vice president, who also happens to be the former secretary of defense ... and who also has quite a history

of business dealings with Iraq (more on that later).

But really, Halliburton's windfall is just the tip of the iceberg. The flood of Bush allies pouring onto the reconstruction gravy train is staggering.

But don't take my word for it; go to any search engine and type in "Halliburton Iraq" or "Bush war profiteering" and see what comes up. You'll hardly know where to begin.

There's Trirame Partners, longtime Bush advisor Richard Perle's venture capital company. It invests in companies dealing in homeland security and defense, with the major bonus of direct entrée to congressional and administration leaders. And Perle is a director of Autonomy Corporation, owning 75,000 shares. The Department of Homeland Security, the NSA and others have awarded huge contracts to Autonomy, quite a boom period for its investors. Who says the economy is in bad shape?

The list goes on and on and is not limited to opportunities abroad.

Remember how awful Sept. 11, 2001 was? The horror, the anger, the confusion and pain? Well, leave it to our industrious carpetbaggers to find a way to

make a fat buck off even that national tragedy. In May, the GOP started hawking a commemorative set of three photos of Bush's first year in office, including our man firmly in charge on the day of the attacks.

Said sore loser Al Gore, "While most pictures are worth a thousand words, a photo that seeks to capitalize on one of the most tragic moments in our nation's history is worth only one — disgraceful." Sounds like sour grapes to me.

Critics point out that not only do such apparently cold-blooded and inside-track money-making ventures cast doubt upon the administration's motives, but Cheney and Halliburton have a history of providing goods and services to the enemy when a profit was to be made. After Cheney was named in 1995 to head Halliburton, although he had no previous business experience, he promised to honor the U.N.'s trade sanctions against Iraq.

"I had a firm policy that we wouldn't do anything in Iraq, even arrangements that were supposedly legal," he said on ABC's "This Week" in 2000. "We've not done any business in Iraq since ... 1990, and I had a standing policy that I wouldn't

do that."

As the Washington Post reported, Cheney modified his response in an interview on the same program three weeks later, after a Halliburton spokesman acknowledged that the company indeed traded with Iraq. In fact, more than \$2.5 million in such contracts were blocked by the Clinton administration.

Not that any of this is new to the Bush inner circle. Bush's grandfather, Prescott Bush, was the director of the Union Banking Corporation in the '40s. In 1942, that company was seized by the U.S. government under the Trading with the Enemy Act for doing business with Nazi Germany. Yes, Nazi Germany.

And, as now widely reported, the Bush family has strong business ties to the bin Laden family. Yes, the bin Laden family.

The party looked like it might be over for our brave entrepreneurs when Rep. Maxine Waters (D-Calif.) recently tried to restrict companies with intimate relationships with the administration from bidding on reconstruction contracts. Luckily for carpetbaggers everywhere, the measure was decisively defeated.

'ETUDES' continued from page 2

I don't qualify for an electric wheelchair. I take all my music classes in the music building and can't take my general education classes right now because it's too hard for me to wheel myself back and forth around campus."

Faculty at the ETUDES lecture expressed concerns about how to stop online students from cheating during exams. Heyn suggested that there should be a certain level of trust involved in an online learning relationship, prompting a less than assured response from the gathering.

"In a classroom situation I

can get a feel for whom to trust," Ian Lewis, music professor and learning disability specialist, said, "but now I just look at a screen. These people are just names."

Others voiced concerns about intellectual property. As long as professors aren't contracted by the school and don't receive money for the specific development of a certain project, they own it and can take it with them when they leave, Heyn said.

"If I was going to enhance my course next semester my

concern is where and how will my students learn ETUDES so soon?" Librada Hernandez, foreign language culture and civilization professor, asked. Heyn offered to hold ETUDES presentations for students; none are scheduled yet.

Heyn has noticed in her hybrid class that some students lack general computer knowledge and has advised that students should consider taking a short computer course before enrolling in an online course.

"I'm not interested," liberal studies student Rebecca

Enriquez said "It might be good for some people who have too much to do, like taking care of their kids, but I have a lot of time and would rather interact with a professor."

Currently, Valley offers a limited number of online courses in child development, speech, business, computer applications and office technologies and Heyn's English 101, but hopes to have almost all of its courses web-enhanced within the next five years.

'Speaker' continued from page 2

re-election. Only two teenagers were bold enough to raise their hands. When one of them later confessed to being the president of the Young Conservatives at his school, she teased, "You're forgiven."

After her talk, the author fielded questions by attendees from North Hollywood High School's Highly Gifted Magnet. Student Azeen Ghorayshi asked if Huffington thought that Schwarzenegger's plan to balance the budget with bonds was sound.

The commentator called the strategy "a disastrous way to proceed; It's a way to avoid making decisions, to pass a huge debt to the next generation, and it's not at all what he ran on."

"I admire that she's outspoken," North Hollywood High student Madeleine St. Marie said, "because even in today's age, women are liberated but they're not really expected to speak out."

"Young women, especially, deal with this conflict between speaking out and not being seen as aggressive," Huffington said. "[As] Marlo Thomas said, 'For a man to be called aggressive, you have to be Joe McCarthy. For a woman to be aggressive, you

have to put somebody on hold.'"

"The evening was everything we had hoped it would be," co-organizer Marlene Share said. "The contribution of the bright and articulate high school students can't be overestimated."

While introducing the speaker, Share noted that they had agreed on the date for the speech before Huffington entered the gubernatorial race. Ironically, the lecture fell on Arnold Schwarzenegger's inauguration day.

Share had offered the commentator an out, but Huffington told her she would be there for the VCJCC fundraiser no matter what.

Co-organizer Harriet Glickman said the funds raised by the event would not only aid the center generally but specifically help to put on future public affairs programs.

Near the end of the evening, 15-year-old cancer patient Sam Loeb stepped to the microphone and said that although he had been lucky so far because his family had very good health insurance, "I've only recently learned about the disturbing percentage of Americans that have little or no healthcare."

"The fact that the richest country in the world does not have [universal] health insurance is completely unacceptable," Huffington replied. "It would be great to have you speak out about this, especially from your own experience, because you carry a lot of special authority because of all you've been through."

Cleveland High School Humanities Magnet student Rachel Sardi said, "It was very inspirational. She's so assertive with her knowledge. She's not wishy-washy on the issues."

Despite the image of the commentator as easily changeable, based by her critics on what she calls her "Republican interregnum," she gave no indication during her often-extemporaneous talk that she is anything but bold and well-informed in her opinions — and she is certainly not afraid to voice them.

"We Greeks gave you democracy," Huffington told the laughing audience, "and you screwed it up."

For tickets and information for the rest of the VCJCC "Five Provocative Speakers" series, call (818) 786-6310.

Campus Crime

BY JACQUI BROWN
STAFF WRITER

Cat Found Dead

Another cat was found dead on campus Friday. The overall cause of death remains unknown, but animal control officers who came to retrieve the body said the cat appeared to have been hit by a car. A resolution was passed on Thursday by the LAVC Academic Senate that states that any reported crime against an animal on this campus must be fully and seriously investigated in a timely and efficacious manner by the administration and the College Sheriff.

Two Autos Stolen

Police are looking for thieves who stole two cars, one from parking lot A on Nov. 18, and another from parking lot C on Nov. 20. No arrests have been made and police are still investigating. Anyone with information should contact the Sheriff's Department.

'Flu' continued from page 1

worthwhile. "I got the shot last year and it helped. I didn't get sick," Sanchez said. "This year I haven't had time to get it yet."

The influenza virus infects the respiratory tract including nose, throat and lungs. The flu usually spreads from person to person when an infected person coughs, sneezes or talks and the virus is sent into the air.

Unlike many other viral respiratory infections, such as the common cold, the flu causes severe illness and life-threatening complications in people considered to be at high risk.

Symptoms of flu include fever, headache, extreme tiredness, dry cough, sore throat, runny or stuffy nose, and muscle aches. Children can have additional gastro-intestinal symptoms, such as nausea, vomiting, and diarrhea, but these symptoms are uncommon in adults. Although the term "stomach flu" is sometimes used to describe vomiting, nausea, or diarrhea, these illnesses are caused by certain other viruses, bacteria, or possibly parasites, and are rarely related to influenza.

Each year about 114,000 people in the United States are

hospitalized and about 36,000 people die because of the flu, according to the FDA.

The flu vaccine is the best way a person can protect themselves and their loved ones against influenza, according to the Centers for Disease Control. But it's important to know that vaccination carries some risks and isn't recommended for everyone.

Patty Melody, campus Health and Fitness instructor said she gets the flu every year but prefers not to get vaccinated. "Getting the Flu is inconvenient, but I prefer to fight it off myself," Melody said. People need to keep in mind that the vaccine isn't for everybody, Melody said. "People who are allergic to egg products or who take anticonvulsant medications need to be aware that the vaccine is prepared with eggs and certain groups may be at risk for serious health complications caused by the shot itself," she said.

October and November are the best months to get vaccinated, however, vaccination in December or later still provides considerable protection.



SALVADOR AGUILAR/VALLEY STAR

PROVOCATIVE SPEAKER- Author and political commentator Arianna Huffington spoke at the Valley Cities Jewish Community Center Nov. 18 to a group of more than 300 people. Huffington's 45-minute lecture touched on Bush's economic and foreign policies.

'Foster' continued from page 2

Foster parents express problems the kids have accessing monies and information, said Loyce Butler. "The children feel lost when they get to college and don't know what to do, what they need."

At a monthly meeting held at Mt. San Antonio College, Butler expressed some common concerns. "Foster parents get the runaround when told [that] services are available," she said. "Some [services] are confusing and difficult to access."

The first colleges to implement Campus Peer Mentoring are Mt. San Antonio and Los Angeles City College. The program costs \$150,000 a year, funded by various sources including The California

Wellness Foundation and the Andrus Family Fund.

"Many of us were mentors before the pilot project and we feel there are no throwaway kids," Dr. Davis Coghill, psychotherapist and program trainer, said. "Mentoring is about showing."

The program is actively seeking sponsors, contributions and community support so that it can be available at Valley.

It is also looking for foster children who are interested in participating. Naomi Barns, a student in the mentor program at Mt. San Antonio, said, "Tell them that you can have a future. Living in 13 homes is not your future."

'Tofurky' continued from page 2

Not everyone agrees however, that turkey should continue to be considered the dominant course due to the inhumane way in which these birds are farmed then killed. People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals, continues in their efforts to educate people in regards to a healthier eating lifestyle in order to stop the mass slaughter of some 45 million turkeys each year for Thanksgiving.

"I think the way they kill animals for one holiday, for one feast is inhumane, it's not right," Sherman Oaks resident Niki Savoy, 9, said. "I would prefer tofu over turkey because I don't want to see a poor animal being killed just for one feast."

PETA boasts that there are nearly 12 million vegetarians in the United States with another 19,000 choosing a meat free diet every week. Their website offers a variety of alternative recipe's to satisfy your appetite by substituting the 'bird' with meals like vegan nut loaf, wild mushroom gravy and roasted vegetables.

Grocery stores across California get in hundreds of pallets of turkeys to accommodate their promotion of a free bird after spending a certain amount of money on groceries. For those who are vegan they

offer \$10 off their food bill.

Joe Ramirez, store manager of the Ralph's in Van Nuys said, "We usually carry a vegetarian meal such as To-Furky but we don't have any in stock this year."

Whole Foods offers something for everyone's taste. Both their holiday catalogues offer pre-cooked meals of organic or natural turkey with all the trimmings and for the vegetarian, a celebration field roast with stuffing and vegetable.

For those vegans not able to join their families or friends this holiday there is another option to enjoy the Thanksgiving festivities out at Rancho Park in West Los Angeles on Thur. 27 between 11 a.m. -3 p.m., This Free Annual Vegan potluck (bring your own dish) picnic with have music and guest speakers from around L.A. The park is located at Pico Boulevard and Motor Avenue. For more information go to <http://SoCalVeg.org> or call (310) 289-5777.

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'Credit' continued from page 2

management companies are thriving as more and more people find themselves in financial hot water.

Nellie Mae, a Massachusetts company that provides public and private education loans, reports that 78 percent of undergraduates 18 to 25 have at least one credit card. The average balance in 2000 was \$2,748, up from \$1,879 in 1998.

Students who charge more than they can afford may be forced to work more hours and end up with less time to concentrate on school.

Robert Manning, author of "Credit Card Nation: America's Dangerous Addiction to Consumer Credit," says that student debt can damage the nation's economy in the long run. "We're

going to see students dropping out of college earlier because of this," Manning said.

About 400 colleges nationwide have policies banning on-campus marketing of credit cards. Valley does not have such a policy.

Luis Lopez is another Valley student who is leery of charging his purchases this year. A liberal arts student with plans to become a coach and teacher, Lopez strongly advises cautious credit card spending. "As long as you're responsible everything will be okay. I only use the ATM. It's my own money and I know what I have," he said. "Take control of the credit card or it could take control of you."

Financial Information from the American Financial Services Association Education Foundation

American Financial Services Association Education Foundation offers these five credit fundamentals for students to know:

*Not all cards are the same. Compare offers from various card issuers and consider annual fees, interest rates and usage charges.

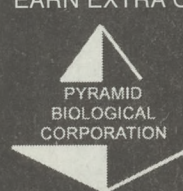
*Take precautions to avoid identity theft. Protect your numbers and avoid giving them out over the phone or Internet unless you initiate the transaction.

*Once you have a credit card, credit bureaus will add information to your credit report. Review your credit report periodically to check for accuracy.

*Your credit report will affect your future. Landlords, employers, mortgage lenders and car companies will review your credit rating before approving loans you may need.

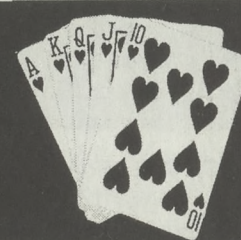
*Don't borrow more than you can repay. Using credit cards to live a lifestyle you can't afford will lead to financial trouble.

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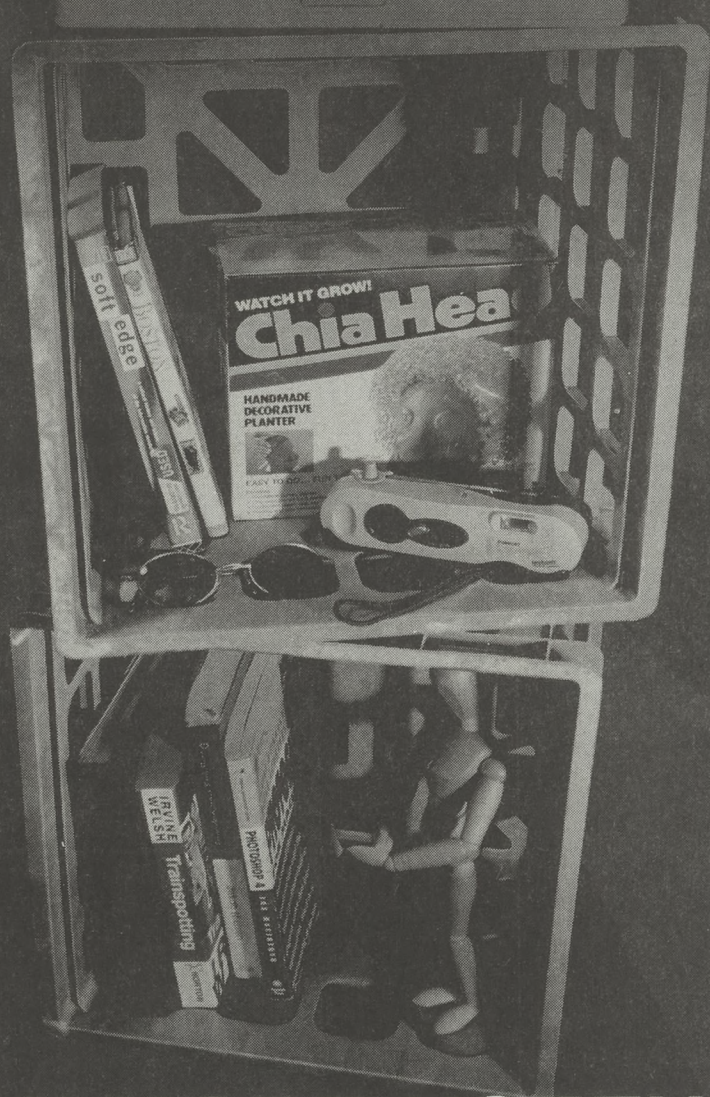
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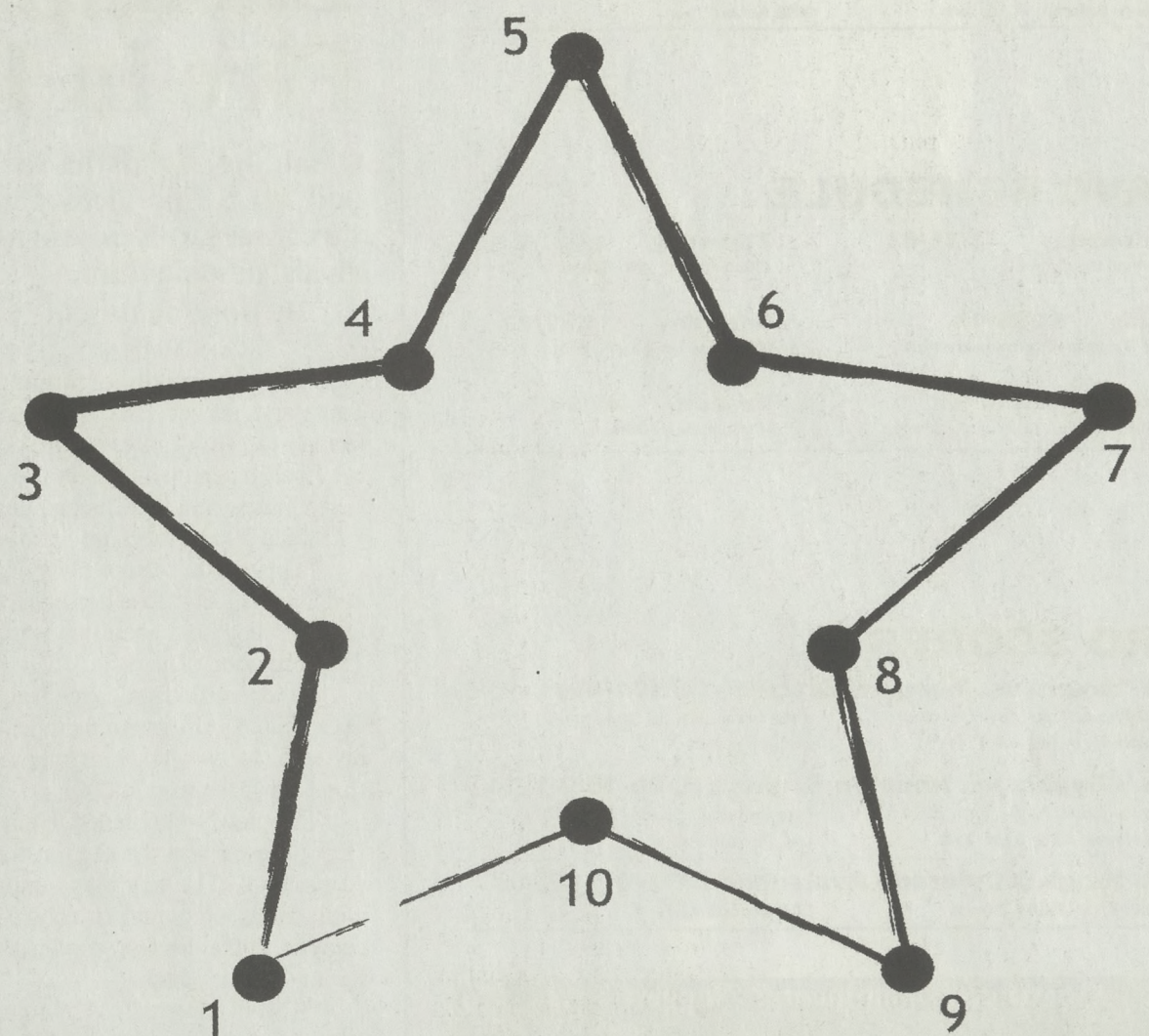
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WSC MEN'S BASKETBALL

Monarchs Fatten Up the Huskies

■ Monarchs walk away with a narrow victory.

By BOB TEICHMANN
STAFF WRITER

After losing its first two games, the men's basketball team was in need of a win. They found one in the form of a last-second 72-69 narrow escape at East L.A.

"This was a team effort," head coach Jay Warner said. "The guys played intelligently and kept their poise even when we were down."

The Huskies opened the game aggressively, sending returning sophomore Earl Felix to the line for Valley. Felix fell short of converting his second free throw, giving the Huskies a 9-8 lead.

Monarch guard Kenneth Eatmon came out shooting in the middle of the first half, drilling a three-pointer to tie the game at 11.

Excitement and frustration started to settle onto the Monarchs soon after. Felix was charged with an offensive foul, and Monarch forward DeShawn Strong was called for carrying.

"You guys have to stop calling my name," Strong said to Eatmon and guard Jeffrey Lim as he went to the bench.

With two minutes remaining in the half, Valley called a full timeout, trailing 22-27.

"It's simple," coach Jay Warner said. "You've got to play

defense before your man gets the ball."

The Monarchs did exactly that. After the timeout, Earl Felix blocked a pass intended for Huskies forward Bruno Acevedo.

However, East L.A. responded with back-to-back three-pointers, finishing the half with a 33-25 lead over Valley.

Felix went into halftime with 10 points and six rebounds. Kenneth Eatmon managed six points, three rebounds, and two assists.

Valley went into the second half with the intention to shut down East L.A. center Mike Garcia, who scored 14 points and shot 2-of-2 from the free throw line.

Monarch guard Carlos Rivers went into the second half with big buckets in mind. Rivers drilled a quick three pointer and landed a free throw after he was fouled.

With three minutes remaining and Valley up 69-67, Rivers fouled out with 11 points, 3-of-3 shooting from the field, and four assists.

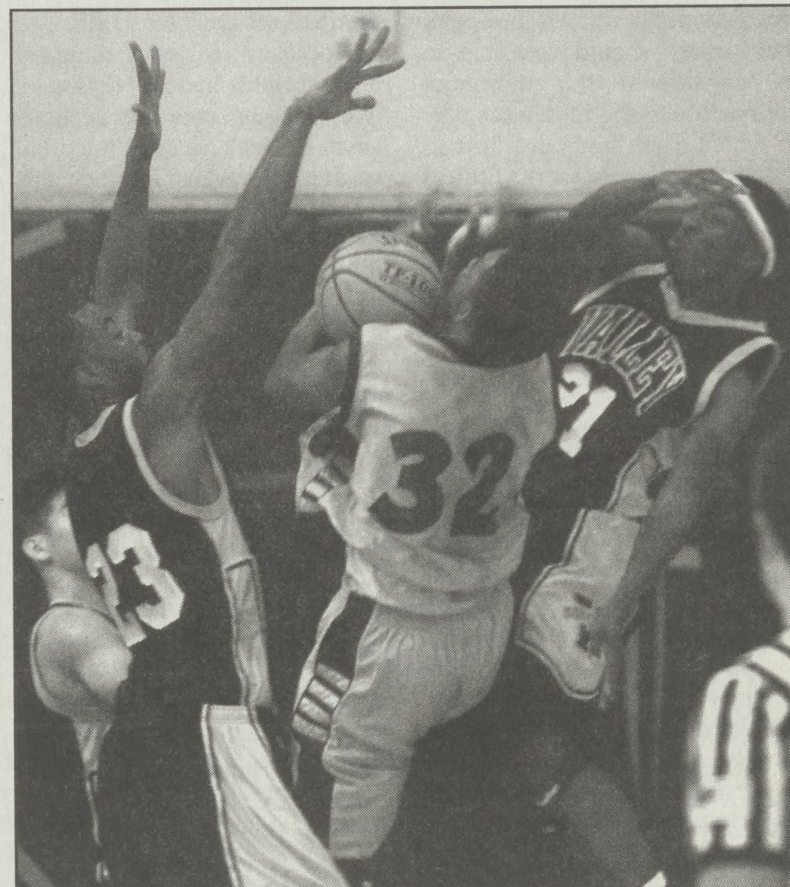
"I still had juice," Rivers said. "Coach prepared us for any situation, so you live and learn."

Valley's strong defense held on despite a turnover with 14 seconds remaining. The win was sealed when Kenneth Eatmon landed a free throw with two seconds left.



SALVADOR AGUILAR/ VALLEY STAR
MONARCH AIR - Former Fremont High graduate Earl Felix, 35, and now Valley Forward goes for the dunk as guard Andrew Gomez, 3, of East Los Angeles College watches him sail by.

MEN'S BASKETBALL
Los Angeles Valley College
Western State Conference
Upcoming Schedule
Opponent Date Time
Condor Cls. 11/28-30 tba



BOB TEICHMANN/ VALLEY STAR
NOWHERE TO GO - Monarch forward DeShawn Strong, 23, keeps his hands up to prevent a layup from Huskies forward Eric Smith, 32, as Monarch guard Kenneth Eatmon, 21, slapped the ball away.

LAVC SCORES

M. Basketball @ East L.A. (W 72-69) 11/21/03
Earl Felix: 16 pts, 11 rb, 3-7 ft
Kenneth Eatmon: 11 pts, 3 rb
Carlos Rivers: 11 pts, 3-3 fg, 4 ast
MBB Record: 1-2

LAVC SCHEDULE

Wednesday 11/26/03 No Scheduled Games	Thursday 11/27/03 Thanksgiving - No Scheduled Games
Friday 11/28/03 Men's Basketball @ Oxnard all day	Saturday 11/29/03 Men's Basketball @ Oxnard all day
Sunday 11/30/03 Men's Basketball @ Oxnard all day	Tuesday 12/2/03 No Scheduled Games

PRO SCORES

L.A. Lakers vs. Memphis Grizzlies (W 121-89) 11/23/03
Gary Payton: 17 pts, 10 ast, 8-13 fg
Karl Malone: 20 pts, 8-9 ft, 10 rb
Kobe Bryant: 28 pts, 11-12 ft, 4 stl
LAL Record: 11-3

L.A. Clippers vs. Houston Rockets (L 90-105) 11/24/03
Corey Maggette: 33 pts, 6 rb, 18-20 ft
Eddie House: 8 pts, 5 ast, 2 stl
Peja Stojakovic: 20 pts, 7 rb, 6-8 ft
LAC Record: 4-6

L.A. Kings @ Colorado Avalanche (W 2-0) 11/22/03
GOALS: LAK - Palffy, Brown
LAK Record: 10-7-1-1

Questions? Comments? Suggestions?

E-mail Valley Star Sports at
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IN THEIR OWN WORDS

"You stay outside, he can't go inside. Never let him cut across the paint."

Jay Warner,
Men's basketball coach,
to his players during a timeout in the second half Friday at East L.A.

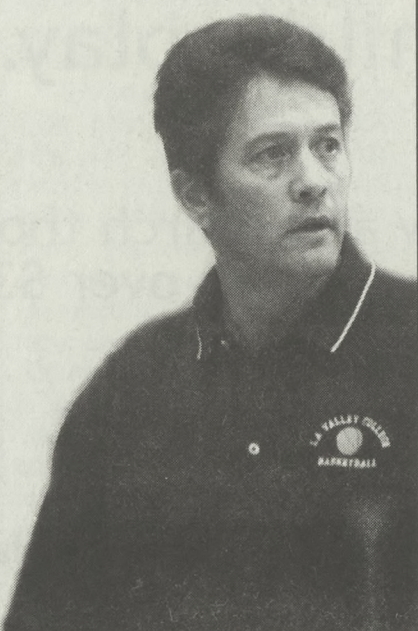


Photo by Bob Teichmann

MAJOR LEAGUE SOCCER - MLS CUP 2003

Earthquakes Shake Up Fire in Home Depot Center

■ San Jose lands its second MLS Cup victory in three years, this time in its rivals' new stadium.

By BOB TEICHMANN
STAFF WRITER

After 10 months of waiting, Southland soccer fans had their chance to see a professional soccer final in person as the San Jose Earthquakes beat the Chicago Fire 4-2 at the 2003 MLS Cup Sunday. "They didn't stop believing and I didn't," San Jose head coach Frank Yallop said about his team. "They're good players."

Yallop is the first coach since D.C. United's Bruce Arena to lead his team to two MLS championships. San Jose won in 2001.

The newly-christened Home Depot Center was the site for this year's final. The sky was sunny with calm wind and a cool 71 degrees - the perfect conditions for any soccer match.

"It over-delivered," MLS commissioner Don Garber said. "This is a facility the whole country can be proud of."

Earthquakes forward Landon Donovan recorded two goals in the game, earning him the Most Valuable Player award.

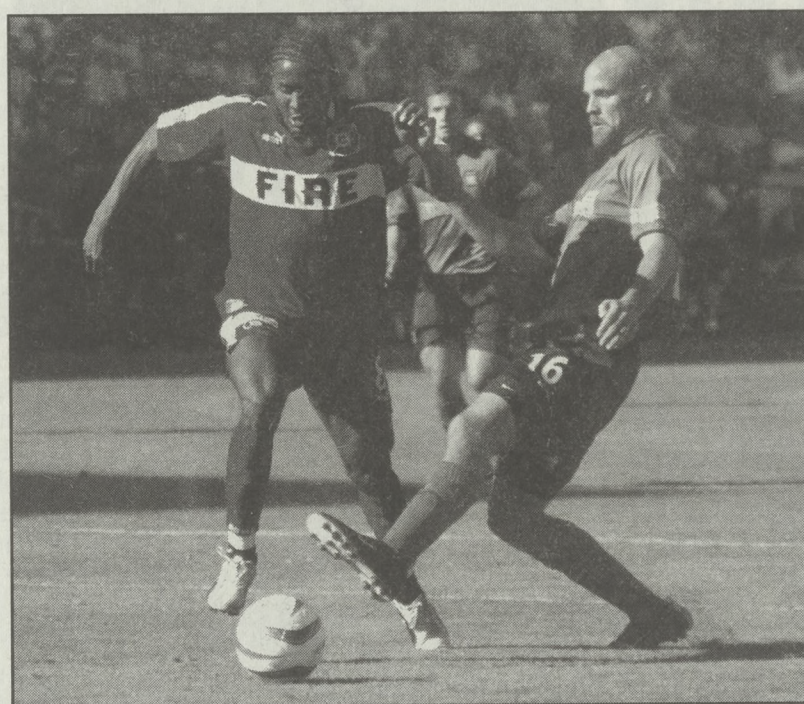
"After three weeks, I am so drained," Donovan said. "This team has heart."

"To me, he's one of the best shooters around," Fire midfielder and captain Chris Armas said.

San Jose went into the second half with a strong two-goal lead.

After Earthquakes midfielder Ronnie Ekelund scored the second fastest goal in MLS cup history, Donovan doubled the lead off a well-timed assist from forward Jamil Walker by faking Fire goalkeeper Zach Thornton to one side.

With a two-team expansion in the works, the 2004 Major League Soccer season is gunning on coming back with more than just Earthquakes and Fire.



SALVADOR AGUILAR/ VALLEY STAR

BALL CONTROL - Chicago Fire forward and Rookie-of-the-Year Damani Ralph, 8 and San Jose 'Quakes defender Craig Waibel, 16 fight for the ball at the 2003 Major League Soccer Cup at the Home Depot Center Nov. 23.

LINESCORE	1	2	F
S.J. EARTHQUAKES	2	2	4
CHICAGO FIRE	0	2	2



JORGE GALLEGOS/ VALLEY STAR

A VICTORY EARNED - The San Jose Earthquakes celebrate with the 2003 MLS championship trophy after defeating the Chicago Fire 4-2 at the Home Depot Center in Carson Nov. 23 winning their second championship in three years.

NOTES

NBA
The Chicago Bulls fired their head coach Bill Cartwright Monday, apparently because the Bulls are off to a horrid 4-10 start.

NBA
Alonzo Mourning, 33, had to retire Monday because of a kidney ailment that he contracted in 2000. The 12-year veteran needs a kidney transplant and will not play with the New Jersey Nets for the rest of the season and quite possibly the rest of his life. Mourning lasted just 12 games in his return to the NBA after sitting out last season because of the same ailment. The team announced that there is a nationwide search under way for a prospective donor. Mourning averaged 20.3 points and 9.8 rebounds in his illustrious career and was a seven-time All-Star.

NCAA FOOTBALL
The University of Southern California (10-1) is back into position to play for the national title. The Trojans' victory over UCLA, accompanied by an Ohio State loss to Michigan this weekend has placed the Trojans in second place in the latest BCS standings. If USC defeats Oregon State on Dec. 6 they will position themselves to play Oklahoma (12-0) for the National Championship.

NFL
The Tampa Bay Buccaneers stopped a three-game losing skid by beating the New York Giants 19-13 at home on Monday Night Football.

MLB
The Anaheim Angels acquired Right-handed pitcher Kelvin Escobar Monday. The pitcher agreed to a three-year contract worth \$18.75 million. Escobar was 13-9 with a 4.29 ERA and four saves in 26 starts and 15 relief appearances for Toronto last season.

MLB
Warren Spahn, the Hall of Fame pitcher who won more games than any other left-hander in history, died Monday. He was 82. Spahn pitched for two decades for the Boston and Milwaukee Braves. He pitched for 21 seasons, winning 363 games and posting 20 or more victories 13 times.

SPORTS

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9

OFFICIAL STATS WESTERN STATE CONFERENCE

WSC Women's Water Polo

Players	Goals
Megan Winchell (L.A. Valley)	104
Denise Valderrama (Citrus)	98
Sauve (Cuesta)	89
Jennelle Stacey (Citrus)	63
Jesse Stiles (L.A. Valley)	61
Janna Thorne (Canyons)	37
Sarah Duran (Citrus)	26
Lindsay Berke (Canyons)	25
Jessica Ferguson (Canyons)	25
Christine Wilcox (Citrus)	25
Alex Davis (Cuesta)	24
Lindsey Kimbell (Citrus)	23
Penny Landsaw (Canyons)	23
G'na Garcia (Cuesta)	21
Blackburn (Cuesta)	14
Christi Hatch (Canyons)	12
Colleen Nesson (Citrus)	12
Jessica Sillman (Ventura)	12

Players	Assists
Denise Valderrama (Citrus)	47
Lindsey Kimbell (Citrus)	44
Jenelle Stacey (Citrus)	39
Trish Prudencio (L.A. Valley)	33
Christine Wilcox (Citrus)	31
Lindsay Berke (Canyons)	30
G'na Garcia (Cuesta)	30
Dimora (Cuesta)	27
Janna Thorne (Canyons)	27
Sauve (Cuesta)	23

Players	Assists
Alex Davis (Cuesta)	85
Lindsey Kimbell (Citrus)	79
Sauve (Cuesta)	68
Janelle Stacy (Citrus)	65
Christine Wilcox (Citrus)	65
Lindsay Berke (Canyons)	63
Denise Valderrama (Citrus)	61
Dimora (Cuesta)	60
Ashley Dill (L.A. Valley)	46
Megan Winchell (L.A. Valley)	43
Ruiz (Cuesta)	41
Gomez (Cuesta)	39
Christi Hatch (Canyons)	39
G'na Garcia (Cuesta)	36
Trish Prudencio (L.A. Valley)	36

Players	GOALIE SAVES
Resa Smith (Citrus)	158
Crane (Cuesta)	128
Jennifer Jenkins (Canyons)	106
Nicole Eash (Ventura)	93
Bailly (Cuesta)	31

WSC Women's Soccer

Players	Goals
Krista Clinton (Moorpark)	31
Casey Dodd (Pierce)	26
Rachel McDonald (Ventura)	17
Nichole Cordova (Mission)	13
Lindsay Sehnem (Moorpark)	11
Erica DeSantiago (Oxnard)	11
Virginia Granados (L.A. Valley)	11
Friday Camaclang (L.A. Valley)	10
Krystle Sanchez (Mission)	9
Karla Soriano (L.A. Valley)	6

Statistical Information Courtesy of Dale Beck, Athletic Information Dir.
Grouped and Set for the Valley Star by Bob Teichmann

HOOPS IN EAST L.A.



BOB TEICHMANN/VALLEY STAR

UP AND UNDER - Monarch forward DeShawn Strong, 23, goes up for a layup against the East L.A. Huskies Friday in Monterey Park. The Monarchs came back from a halftime deficit to win 72-69.

Questions? Comments? Suggestions?

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Extreme Sports Ride on at LG Action Event

■ Top extreme athletes compete at the Pomona Fairplex to compete for \$650,000 in prizes.

BY PETER O'CONNOR
STAFF WRITER

The top extreme athletes from all over the world gathered at the Pomona Fairplex last week to compete for over \$650,000 in prizes, making the LG Action Sports Championship the largest per discipline prize purse in action sports history.

Ryan Nyquist, Dave Mirra, Andy Macdonald, Eito Yasutoko, Drake McElroy and Bob Burnquist are just a few of the top names that showed their face at this epic event for top world ranking and recognition. Bands such as the Exies, Celldweller, Simple Plan and Fuel provided the live soundtrack at the first-ever LG Action Sports Championship.

It began with the Inline Street Course Finals with Australian Blake Dennis coming back to score a 96.25 landing a topside soul transfer to an alley-oop rail slide, leaving top riders Brian Aragon and Stephane Alfono without that \$15,000 check.

More than 10,000 people showed up for the opening weekend to watch Nate Adams win the Freestyle Motocross Finals, Eito Yasutoko take the Inline Vert and Blake Dennis along Martina Svobodova take the Inline Street Finals for men and women.

Thursday night welcomed the world of BMX. Gridlocked Los Angeles freeways and mois-

ture in the air resulted in a poor turnout of about 30 spectators to witness Ryan Nyquist take the \$30,000 BMX Street Course prize. The finals were not held and placement was based on the preliminary runs due to a moist atmosphere causing danger to the riders.

"It's a bummer to go have to go out like this, but I'll take it," said Ryan Nyquist. "I'm sure if the crowd was there and the place was happening the judges would've let us ride; I know we all wanted to ride."

The Pomona Fairplex seemed to have died over the week. An empty parking lot and lonely vendors sat at the fairgrounds with beautiful ramps and half pipes and nobody to share it with. An enormous area dedicated to a stage and the bands stepping foot on them remained rather empty with few spectators overall. The BMX riders continued on Friday with the Vert finals along with the skateboarding to hit the streets.

The weekend welcomed Simple Plan and Fuel to finish off with the U.S. Skateboarding Championship. People came out of their holes and got out to the pit of Pomona to see idols, icons and heroes to many. Overall the nine days turned out to be a fun event that only promises to get better as LG continues to throw this world championship gathering. We can only hope that they continue to be in the Southland for our viewing pleasure.

AN OPINION Bail Bonds

BY JAYSON ADDCOX
SPORTS EDITOR

Barry Bonds finished another one of his amazing seasons. The slugger batted .341, hit 45 homeruns and drove in 90 runs, enough to earn him an unprecedented sixth National League MVP award. However, his involvement with Bay Area Laboratory Co-Operative owner Victor Conte has me questioning whether Bonds' recent ascent into the baseball record books is valid.

BALCO, a small company in Burlingame, Calif. is known for making nutritional supplements for athletes around the world. Gary Anderson, Bonds' personal trainer, recommended that he hook up with Conte in 2000. Soon after Bonds was on ZMA, a new breakout supplement that Conte produced. Now Conte is being investigated by a federal grand jury, and his supplements are linked to a new designer steroid, tetrahydrogestrinone (THG).

U.S. Olympic shot-putter C.J. Hunter tested positive for illegal drug enhancements four times, disqualifying him from the 2000 Sydney Olympics. Conte apparently supplied him with his supplements. Meantime Bonds was hitting the weight room in the 2000 off-season and put on an astonishing 30-plus pounds of muscle. He shattered the Major League homerun record the following season hitting 73.

"I'm just shocked by what they've been able to do for me," Bonds said in Muscle & Fitness Magazine. "To have your blood

drawn and analyzed can tell you what your body produces more of, what it lacks. You're able to create a program that fits for you as an individual."

In June Dr. Don Catlin, UCLA's Olympic accredited chemist, received an Airborne Express package containing a used syringe. All that is known is that an unidentified track coach suspicious of Conte's work had the USADA investigate the BALCO lab. It took eight weeks for Catlin and his seven chemists to reveal that it was THG. "This is a conspiracy involving chemists, coaches and certain athletes using what they developed to be 'undetectable' designer steroids," USADA Chief Executive Officer Terry Madden said.

In Bonds' first 14 seasons he averaged 31.8 homeruns, in his last four seasons he averaged 53.3. In his first 14 seasons Bonds weighed 180 to190 pounds, now Bonds weighs 230 pounds. Did Bonds have reasons to use illegal enhancements? Sure. When Bonds first contacted Conte he was 36-years-old, what some might consider past an athlete's prime. Or could he have been motivated by his pursuit of the single season homerun title, and possibly although he negates it, his relentless desire to pass Hank Aaron as the all-time homerun king? Sure, he could've used a boost.

The question is whether or not Bonds knew about THG and if knowingly used it. If he did the sports world will never know and if he didn't, then he sure peaked at an odd time in his career.

Filipina Star Shined for Valley

Friday Camaclang shared her experience with this year's Monarch soccer squad.

BY JORGE GALLEGOS
STAFF WRITER

It's no secret that midfielder Friday Camaclang was the best player on this years' Monarchs soccer squad. "Hopefully I showed that I was with the team, even when I wasn't feeling good," midfielder Camaclang said.

Camaclang is a different and unique player, starting with her name; the talented midfielder has soccer flowing through her blood. She breathes, dreams and talks about soccer all the time. She's the kind of player who shows up before practice to run a couple of laps and is always one of the last ones to leave.

"I just don't play soccer," Camaclang said. "I live it." Camaclang led the Monarchs with 11 goals, and she also had six assists.

Coach Eric Archila believes in her strong work ethic. "She shared her great individual technique with the team," Archila said. "Even when she plays at 50 percent, it's better than other players when they're at 100 percent."

Inspired by her dad, the playmaker discovered soccer early on her life. "My dad is my inspiration," Camaclang said. "If it wasn't for him, I wouldn't be playing. He helped me become a better athlete." Camaclang affirms, "I'm papa's little girl."

At three years old she kicked a soccer ball for the first time, at 12 years old she joined her first club team and at 16 years old she was recruited for the Philippine National Team. At 22 years old she received the first MVP of the match award by a Filipino in the history of the Asian Games by scoring the first two goals of the tournament.

Now, Friday wants to continue her soccer career and gain more experience to share it with her national team. "All I want is a chance to practice with a semi-pro soccer club," Camaclang ended.



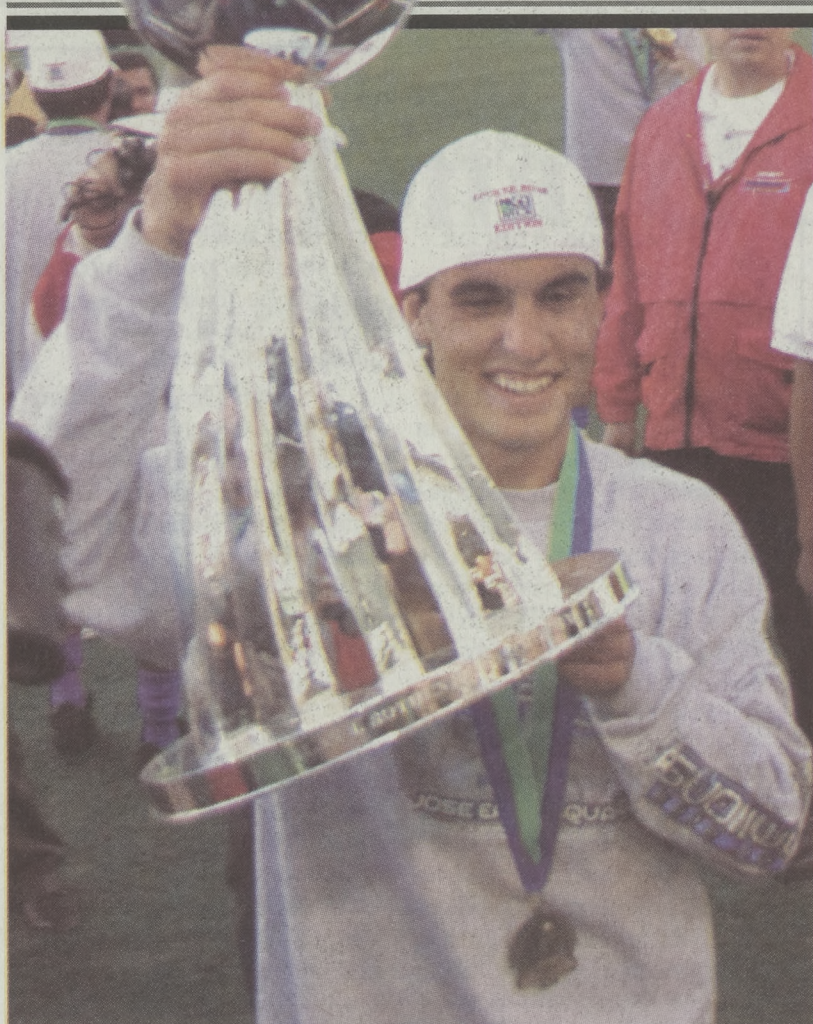
JORGE GALLEGOS/VALLEY STAR

Friday Camaclang finished the season with 10 goals and three assists for Valley.



Photo by Jorge Gallegos

GALLERY



JORGE GALLEGOS/VALLEY STAR

MAN OF THE MATCH - San Jose Earthquakes offensive star Landon Donovan was given the Most Valuable Player award of the 2003 MLS Cup after scoring two goals.



AN OLD GAME, A NEW TRADITION

LAYOUT AND TEXT BY
SALVADOR AGUILAR,
JORGE GALLEGOS,
AND BOB TEICHMANN

In a country where football is one of the most popular professional sports, the other "football" doesn't get so much as a 30-second mention on the evening news... if that.

But in a time when professional soccer is gaining momentum in the United States, the Chicago Fire and San Jose Earthquakes shoved an incredible game down the throats of the naysayers at the 2003 Major League Soccer Cup in Carson Sunday.

The newly-christened Home Depot Center, home to Major League Soccer's Los Angeles Galaxy, was the location that housed all the action of an excellent pro soccer final.

More than 27,000 fans enjoyed the ABC Sports presentation, including a United States Navy fly-over, a halftime fireworks display presented by Daisy Fuentes, and a special performance by Grammy award winner Michelle Branch.

Earthquakes' star forward Landon Donovan took top honor as the game's MVP after leading San Jose to a 4-2 victory over Chicago.

Even as the Fire went to the locker room with heads down and the Earthquakes walked off with smiles all around, the fans were the true winners after scoring a great game in a new stadium in the fastest growing tradition in professional sports this country has ever seen.



BOB TEICHMANN/VALLEY STAR

DISAPPOINTMENT - Chicago Fire forward Damani Ralph, left, is consoled after a 4-2 loss against the San Jose Earthquakes Sunday at the 2003 MLS Cup at the Home Depot Center in Carson.



BOB TEICHMANN/VALLEY STAR

JOCKING FOR POSITION - Chicago Fire forward Damani Ralph, right, bumps San Jose Earthquakes defender Troy Dayak to move in for a strike.



SALVADOR AGUILAR/VALLEY STAR

NO WAY! - San Jose 'Quakes goal keeper Pat Onstad saves a goal as Chicago Fire midfielder Andy Williams watches.



JORGE GALLEGOS/VALLEY STAR

FINAL GOAL - International striker Landon Donovan celebrates the fourth San Jose goal scored in the 71st minute that led the Earthquakes to win their second MLS title.